

b-inspired: Enterprise as a Life



b-inspired is committed to developing successful neighbourhoods, and providing the services and support needed to embrace and nurture talent and potential in Leicester's exciting and diverse communities.

In July 2009, b-inspired received funding for its business support project Enterprise as a Life, which support individuals from deprived communities in Leicester through workshops, group events, one-to-one coaching and mentoring.

The total project value was £689,000. This was divided into two periods. The first from 1 July 2009 to 31 September 2012 was valued at £295,000 with 62 percent of the funding coming from ERDF, 22 percent from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and 16 percent was self-funded.

The second period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 was valued at £394,000, with 80 percent from ERDF, 10 percent from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and 10 percent partner and self-funded.

b-inspired recommend that potential applicants to the ERDF fund should know that the application process can be lengthy and they should be prepared to leave sufficient time for this.

In regard to project management, b-inspired advise successful applicants to work closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, whose staff they found helpful and supportive.

Also, historically ERDF projects have not worked closely together. b-inspired would like this to change in order to prevent

missed opportunities and to pool resources and shared costs.

The most important lesson b-inspired has learnt from their ERDF experience is to constantly review and improve their service to meet the needs of their clients. In their case, this has led to them introducing new workshops and a text messaging service providing updates on forthcoming events.

For further information on b-inspired visit www.b-inspired.org.uk.