

Tackling workless, NEET and low levels of skills and enterprise in Hyndburn.

Outline Proposal for Working Neighbourhood Funding

Context

In spite of considerable progress made during the last 3 years, Hyndburn remains an area of significant deprivation. The borough has high levels of workless; young people not in employment, education and training (NEET) and low levels of skills and enterprise within the community.

This proposal aims to tackle these priorities for improvement by creating an innovative programme of apprenticeships and other training opportunities, which engages Hyndburn employers who have little or no previous history of engagement in this type of training. An objective will also be to secure these local jobs for local people.

Following early contact with local employers a number of Hyndburn employers have expressed an interest in offering places under the proposed scheme. These include:

- Accrington and Rossendale College
- Elevate East Lancashire
- Hyndburn Borough Council
- Hyndburn Primary Care trust
- Lancashire Police
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue
- Pennine Groundwork

A number of SME/micro employers are being consulted about the new scheme and are expected to participate.

Aims

1. To reduce the NEET and workless figures in Hyndburn
2. To develop employability and enterprise skills by providing training opportunities leading to qualifications and opportunities for sustainable employment.

Objectives

1. To help local employers, through a tailored programme of financial support, establish their capacity to offer apprenticeship or other training provision
2. To provide individual mentoring and learning support designed to meet the needs of the apprentice or learner.
3. To create at least 75 new apprenticeships with Hyndburn employers over a 3 year period and to recruit workless or NEET learners to these new opportunities.
4. To provide a number of subsidised employment (with training provided) opportunities for workless Hyndburn residents.
5. To provide the apprentices appropriate training programmes based at Accrington and Rossendale College or another institution of training provider leading to nationally recognised qualifications.
6. To provide training for specific vacancies where employers are able to offer guaranteed interviews and/or work trails, in particular those with a local or national employer partnership.

Partners

In addition to the participating organisations, other key relationships need to be established if the objectives are to be met, specifically, Jobcentre Plus and Connexions service. In April a project manager will be appointed to set up a series of meetings with partners to establish agreed methods of communications and initial recruitment publicity.