

Education Skills and Employability Board

29 June 2021

Grant Acceptance and Approvals Paper

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Funding Decision
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Garth Sutton, Chief Finance Officer/s73 Officer

Report Author(s):
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Executive Summary

This paper requests approval to accept two grants from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for the Bootcamps and Careers Hub programmes.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

The programmes will facilitate and proactively support skills, whilst supporting the region's recovery and renewal from the pandemic

Recommendations

The board consider and approve:

1. Acceptance of the DfE programme grant of £0.89m for the Skills Bootcamps programme
2. Acceptance of the CEC programme grant of £0.39m for the Careers Hub Network programme
3. AEB Change Request
4. Delegate Authority to the S73 Officer in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer to accept the grant subject to their acceptance of the terms of the agreement and enter into subsequent legal agreements.

1. Background

1.1 Skills Bootcamps

Skills bootcamps are one part of the National Skills Fund, a £2.5 billion initiative to help adults train and gain skills quickly to improve their job prospects.

Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, with a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job), which equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in demand jobs, apprenticeships, new opportunities and an increased level of income over time (including for the self-employed).

1.2 SYMCA has received a £0.89m funding offer from DfE for the 22/23 financial year to deliver Skills Bootcamps across 4 sector subject areas comprising digital, engineering, construction management and green construction & buildings. The targets are:

- a minimum of 250 learner starts in total by 31st March 2023 – 20% to have started by 31st July 2022
- at least 80% of those who start training will complete the course which includes 100% of relevant learners being offered a guaranteed interview with an employer with appropriate vacancies
- at least 75% of learners who complete their course will have a positive outcome (a new job must be continuous employment for at least 12 weeks or apprenticeship, increased responsibilities or a new role with existing employer or increased opportunities for the self-employed) within 6 months of completion.

1.3 Careers hub Network

The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) was established by government in 2015 to help link schools and colleges in England to employers, to increase young people's exposure to the world of work.

1.4 The South Yorkshire (SY) Careers Hub, formerly known as the Enterprise Adviser Network, is led by two Careers Hub leads within SYMCA, and delivered in partnership with each of the local authorities through 7 co-funded Enterprise Co-ordinator posts and a support officer role. Currently the Careers Hub is working with 110 institutions from across the four local authority areas, including mainstream, SEND schools and further education colleges and supporting them to achieve progress against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

1.6 SYMCA has received an indicative funding offer from CEC for the 22/23 academic year but final figures have yet to be confirmed. The grant from CEC will provide the authority with an opportunity to improve, develop and implement more robust measures to track outcomes at place against the ambitions set out in the Strategic Economic Plan

1.7 **Change Request**

The board is asked to consider the request for change received from Profound Services Ltd to amend their plan for delivery of the Adult Education Budget (AEB). The current contract is for first Level 2 provision only in Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies and Information & Communication Technology. Profound Services Ltd are requesting to amend their profile to also include learners who are accessing a second Level 2. The re-profile has been split to First Full Level 2 (50%) and Second Full Level 2 (50%).

2. **Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

2.1 **Option 1**

Approve all recommendations

2.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

The Skills Bootcamp programme has funding which must be defrayed within the current financial year and the timescale for award means the programme will not start delivery until well into the year. The proposed deliverables in this paper are ambitious and planning activities are underway to ensure delivery can be achieved within the timescales.

2.3 **Option 2**

Do nothing

2.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

This would mean the loss of opportunity for Sheffield City Region residents to benefit from the programmes.

2.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 1

4. **Consultation on Proposal:**

4.1 Discussions have been on-going with the Education, Skills and Employability board and other partners.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 Subject to board approvals, the statutory officers will move to affect the recommended grant awards.

Given the timing of this paper any changes agreed will apply to any 2022/23 allocations awarded to Profound Services.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

6.1 **Skills Bootcamp** – the programme is 100% funded by DfE and includes a 5% management fee for the administration and reporting by the MCA.

6.2 **Enterprise Advisor Network** – 2 internal posts (£130k) are funded 100% by Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC). All remaining posts are 50% funded by

CEC (£196,500) with SYMCA funds identified for one post (£12,400) with Local Authorities providing the match funding for the remaining posts (£184,100).

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 The legal implications of the programmes have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

8.1 N/A

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 Appropriate equality and diversity considerations are taken into account as part of the assessment of the programme delivery models.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 Climate change impact will be assessed as part of the process for proposed activity.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 The grants provide an opportunity to demonstrate the leadership role the MCA and its partners are playing in supporting the region's recovery and renewal from the pandemic.

List of Appendices Included

None