

29th July 2019

**Acceptance of Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) Grant for the delivery
of the Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN) in the
Academic Year 2019/20**

Purpose of Report

The Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN) is a national initiative of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC). SCR LEP has been in receipt of funds from the CEC to support this network since becoming a pilot area in 2015 as part of the first growth deal. The MCA accepted the 2 year offer of grant from the CEC in their meeting on the 18 September 2018. This paper is recommending the acceptance of the second year of that grant allocation for the academic year 2019/20.

Thematic Priority

Develop the SCR skills base, labour mobility and education performance.

Freedom of Information

This paper is not exempt from FOI requests and will be published in line with the Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

Recommendations

- That the MCA accept the grant subject to the detailed discussion and agreement of the Thematic Board to programme arrangements

1. Introduction

- 1.1** On the 18 September 2018, the MCA accepted the Grant Offer from the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) covering the two academic years 2018/19 and 2019/20, at this meeting they accepted the grant for the first financial year. This paper is being presented seeking approval to accept the second and final year of that grant funding.
- 1.2** The Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN) is a national initiative of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC). South Yorkshire were one of the first wave of pilot areas in 2015 as part of the growth deal with the LEP. The programme aims to create linkages with volunteers from businesses. The SCR EAN network has been successful against targets set by the CEC (to date):
- 108 Schools/Colleges in the network
 - 102 of which are engaged
 - 69 are matched with an Enterprise Adviser
 - There are 85 Enterprise Advisers from 70 different employers

- 1.3 The SCR directly sub-contracts delivery of the EAN to Local Authorities who provide match for the project to fund ECs in their local area (the exception is the Opportunity area EC in Doncaster who is fully funded by the CEC).

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 For delivery in 2019/20 the CEC have offered a grant to the SCR LEP of £180k. This is the amalgamation of two previous grants that covered the existing EAN across South Yorkshire and additional funds allocated to Doncaster as an Opportunity Area for an additional fully funded Enterprise Co-ordinator. The grant will cover the following:
- £50,000 to fully fund one FTE Enterprise Co-ordinator for the Doncaster Opportunity Area Enterprise Co-ordinator
 - £125,000 to provide a 50% contribution to 5 FTE Enterprise Co-ordinator's in partnership with the four Local authorities (in addition to the Doncaster OA post). This is pro rata based on the number of schools in each Local Authority.
 - £5,000 contribution to the salary of a Senior Enterprise Co-ordinator providing additional support across the network on matters of quality and impact.
- 2.2 As with previous years the proposed delivery model will be through Local Authority sub-contracts. Subject to the Board accepting the grant delivery will commence in Sept 2019.
- 2.3 The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) brings together educators and employers to work towards the aspiration of the Governments Career Strategy of 7 or more meaningful employer encounters whilst a young person is in education. It comprises,
- **Enterprise Coordinators (EC)**, trained professionals who work with clusters of up to 20 mainstream schools and colleges to build careers plans and make connections to local and national employers. EC support a group of senior business volunteers, known as Enterprise Advisers, who they match with one of the school or colleges in the network. The ECs in SCR simplify the careers landscape for both schools and business by providing a single point of contact for co-ordination of activities for schools in their caseload.
 - **Enterprise Advisers**, are volunteers from the business community who support the senior leadership team to develop and effective careers plan and bring the world of work alive for young people. Enterprise Advisers receive support from the Enterprise Coordinators along with training and resources from the CEC.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 Do not accept the grant for 2019

This would reduce the capacity of the South Yorkshire Authorities to continue the Enterprise Adviser Network delivery by approximately 50% and potentially stop delivery in some, if not all, areas. It would impact the Doncaster Opportunity Area as different arrangements would need to be put in place to distribute this grant funding and this would pose a risk to the mobilisation of the Business Education Alliance, an ESF project which uses the EAN grant as match funding as a new source of match would be required by the LA partners.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

The CEC funds this programme at £180k per academic year, with match funding provided by the local authorities via in kind match.

The grant is spent as shown in paragraph 2.1. No funds are retained by the SCR Executive to support delivery of the network or contract management.

The risk to the SCR Executive of clawback is mitigated via sub-contracts to the local authorities.

4.2 Legal

The risk in achieving the targets in the Funding Agreement with the CEC are passed onto the four LA's as part of their contracts with the SCR MCA.

4.3 Risk Management

- **Quality of the EAN across the four Local Authorities** – the experience and knowledge of ECs differs leading to variable delivery and quality. The creation of a Senior EC in September 2018 working across SY is enabling best practice and experience to be shared.
- **Recruitment and retention of Enterprise Advisors** - the recruitment and retention of the volunteer EA is a challenge. Further marketing and communication work will be undertaken this year to raise the profile of the EAN and the benefits to business to being involved.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

The EAN programme targets all secondary schools in the four South Yorkshire authorities with 100% coverage a key requirement of the contract. This ensures all young people have equal and fair access to the opportunities the EAN presents. It also actively targets young people with special educational needs (SEN) to support them to gain confidence and understanding of the world of work

5. Communications

5.1 The network will continue to work with the 100 education organisations involved in the SCR EAN and their Enterprise Advisers, planned engagement activities include:

- **A welcome and thank you** - beginning the academic year with a letter issued to EA and schools welcoming them and thanking them for their involvement/continued involvement on behalf of the LEP.
- **SY Regional Events** – 3 times a year, all education organisations and employers come together to important updates and to share good practice.
- **LA level activity** – each area has its own LA level network activity for careers leaders and/or Enterprise Advisers to encourage greater levels of collaboration
- **SEN-Dream Teams** – following a successful partnership event with Jobcentre Plus in June, each LA area will be working with their SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) school Enterprise Advisers and their education organisations to deliver LA level events around progression pathways to employment for SEND young people
- **FE/HE collaboration** –with educators and Enterprise Advisers to raise awareness of the progression pathways to employment through FE & HE

6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 None

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>
<http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>