

Welcome to this edition of the national European Social Fund Newsletter.



ESF achievers celebrated at national Adult Learners' Week 2014 Awards ceremony

The Adult Learners' Week 2014 National Awards were presented at an impressive and inspirational ceremony in London on Monday 16 June. The ceremony kicked off Adult Learners' Week by celebrating outstanding people and organisations who have transformed their lives, and the lives of those around them, through adult learning.

Adult Learners' Week is now in its 23rd year and once again ESF is a key partner and supporter. Three of the national awards presented showcased how ESF programmes are helping people change their lives for the better by providing them with opportunities and support to learn and acquire skills. Angus Gray, Head of ESF Division in DWP, presented the ESF Awards.

Melanie Tompkinson, who won the **ESF Adult Learner Award** has struggled with a life of crime, addiction and homelessness. However, engaging in education and training during her two year prison sentence enabled her to stay clean and secure a part-time job. Supported by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) CFO New Futures project, Melanie has helped other women facing the problems she has faced in various voluntary capacities, as a prison Education Orderly, as a Literacy Mentor and as a Prison Listener for Bristol Samaritans.

Jordan George, winner of the **ESF Young Adult Learner Award**, was unemployed, getting into trouble and had no focus. But following an Apprenticeship with the Fifteen restaurant in Cornwall (supported by the Cornwall Food Foundation, Cornwall College and the ESF) he is on his way to becoming a professional chef. During his apprenticeship he has gained a VRQ Level 1 in Professional Cookery, a Health and Hygiene certificate, and Level 2 Maths and English. But just as importantly, he has gained the confidence, skills and experience he needs to shine in his chosen profession and to move on to a job in a restaurant in St Ives.

The **ESF National Project Award** went to **Bad Boy's Bakery**, a social enterprise run within HMP Brixton by Working Links (NOMS CFO) and funded by the ESF. The project gives serving offenders support, skills and qualifications, and most importantly helps them to find relevant employment on release, cutting re-offending rates. It has already seen some great results, with almost one-in-four (23 per cent) moving from the Bakery into some form of employment (around half of these in the hospitality and catering industry), and only one-in-20 (5%) re-offending within the first year.

Another ESF project participant featured at the awards in a non-ESF category was Young Adult Learner of the Year National Finalist **David Simpson**, who is building a career as a self-employed plasterer, after winning a silver medal at The Skills Show national skills competition. He has received ESF support through Carlisle College.

Short films about all the Adult Learners' Week award winners are on the Adult Learners' Week website, as are details of all the regional award winners, who will be featured in our next newsletter.

[>>Adult Learners' Week: 2014 National Award Winners](#)



Big Lottery Fund match for social inclusion

Plans to match £260m of European funding with money from the Big Lottery Fund for projects to support employment and social inclusion have been announced. The plans were outlined by Big Lottery Fund Chief Executive Dawn Austwick at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations conference, on Monday 16 June.

Priorities for the new seven-year, 2014-2020 round of the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Growth Programme in England, which includes the European Social Fund, have been determined locally by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The combined monies will be managed by the Big Lottery Fund, with charities able to bid to deliver projects that address poverty and social inclusion, for example, by improving skills, employability and education opportunities in disadvantaged communities. The 2014-2020 ESF Operational Programme document will include the BIG Lottery Fund arrangements and will shortly be submitted to the European Commission for consideration and approval.

[>> Lottery match set to open up major European funding opportunities for voluntary sector](#)

Supervised Jobsearch Pilots

Supervised Jobsearch Pilots (SJP), announced by the Secretary of State in October 2013 will test the impact of supervised jobsearch support to certain claimants. Participants will spend 13 weeks on the pilot, once referred. The pilots will be funded by ESF under DWP's co-financing agreements. The Invitation to Tender was made available to providers on the DWP Employer Related Support Services framework on Thursday 5 June 2014. Further updates on SJP will be available following the procurement exercise.

[>>Claimants required to undertake supervised jobsearch at new centres](#)



Be an ESF Exhibitor at The Skills Show 2014

The Skills Show is once again offering ESF funded projects which support young people the opportunity to apply for a funded exhibition space at The Skills Show national event at the Birmingham NEC on 13-15 November. Exhibiting at The Skills Show can help raise the profile of ESF projects and inspire young people about education, skills and careers opportunities.

[>>Be an ESF Exhibitor](#)



Military veteran launches Rebuild South West

An exciting new social enterprise aimed at renovating some of the thousands of empty properties in Cornwall while offering training and support to the unemployed and military veterans has completed its first project. Rebuild South West was set up by Helston-based Craig Little, who left the Royal Navy from RNAS Culdrose in 2011 after a career in a variety of flying operations. His ideas were supported by

the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) Cornwall, which was originally supported with ESF Convergence investment. The project is providing valuable work experience for the ex-service community and young people out of work, with support from the Jobcentre Plus flexible support fund.

[>>Military veteran launches Rebuild South West](#)

Community Grants funding opportunities

TCHC, the Community Grant body for the East of England, is currently inviting small third sector organisations to bid for Community Grants of up to £15,000 for employment and training projects to support individuals experiencing difficulties entering the labour market. The closing date for this round of bidding is 18 July 2014.

[>>TCHC Community Grants](#)

Community Grants are being offered for similar provision in many other parts of England; a list of organisations and contact details are on Gov.uk.

[>>SFA ESF programme summary: community grants](#)

Helpful Links

[England ESF programme national website](#)

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

[Skills Funding Agency Co-financing Organisation \(CFO\)](#)

[Ministry of Justice \(National Offender Management Service CFO\)](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Greater London Authority - European Programmes Management Unit - ESF pages](#)

[Inspiring Work: Cornwall and the South West](#)

[TAEN \(The Age and Employment Network\)](#)

[Europa \(European Commission website\) ESF pages](#)

[The National Council for Voluntary Organisations - NCVO](#)

[Gibraltar ESF secretariat website pages](#)

Get in touch

We want to hear about your ESF news and success stories, and welcome your ideas for features on our website – [just contact us](#)