

Community-based delivery of employment services

This project will ensure that employment and skills support is easily accessible from the heart of the borough's communities, including Children's Centres. The project will be marketed as 'Job Shop Community Outreach' and there will be close working with the borough's job brokerage service, delivered from:

- Barking Job Shop in Vicarage Field Shopping Centre, Barking;
- Dagenham Job Shop in Heathway Mall, Dagenham;
- Green Lane Job Shop, Dagenham; and
- Job Shop Community Outreach, St Mary's Parade, Gascoigne Estate, Barking.

Project activity should include:

- Targeted outreach at Children's Centres and engagement with parents/carers at the school gates and through Parent Support Advisors.
- Engagement with local voluntary and community sector organisations, including those supporting carers.
- Coaching, mentoring and other support that ensures any issues relating to wellness and stability are addressed.
- Peer support mechanisms that broaden the social connections of participants.
- A diagnostic assessment to ascertain skills for life needs.
- Provision of information, advice and guidance with a structured skills action plan for the individual.
- Practical employment and skills support, including confidence building, jobsearch, CV writing and interview skills.
- Signposting to in-work benefit/tax credits advice (available within Children's Centres).
- Active support to secure flexible working opportunities.
- Support for participants for a period of up to 26 weeks after they leave the project.

Discretionary budget

The successful provider will also be required to allocate a Discretionary Budget of £69,184 within its budget. This Discretionary Budget can be utilised by the successful provider, only following specific agreement with LBB, for the purposes of meeting the holistic needs of the participant in bringing them closer to the labour market, and to meet project target outcomes. Examples of effective use of this Discretionary Budget would be to cover the cost, where necessary, of short vocational training courses, travel expenses or occasional childcare costs to support a participant in their first month into work, or the purchase of equipment required to undertake a job opportunity. For the list of eligible cost items, please refer to the Financial information section of the general prospectus.

The funding of the Discretionary budget has been built into the unit costs listed at the end of this specification.

All evidence towards spend of the Discretionary Budget will be closely monitored by GLE during regular monitoring visits.

Key target groups will be:

- Those with parental and/or caring responsibilities, whether receiving benefits or not, including lone parents.
- JSA customers unemployed for 6+ months.
- ESA, Income Support and Incapacity Benefit claimants whose participation in the Work Programme is voluntary but prefer to access support through this project.

The project will support individuals who face a combination of barriers which prevent them from taking up learning opportunities and developing employability skills. These barriers might be the long-term unemployment, insecure housing tenure, involvement in petty crime, domestic violence, poor family relations, etc.

The provider will work closely to identify individuals that are not currently on the DWP / ESF programme to support families to ensure there is no duplication of provision. Providers will need to ensure that updates with participants continue to establish that this is the case over the life of the project.

The service will **not** be available to those accessing support through the Work Programme and providers will need to ensure that updates with participants continue to establish that this is the case over the life of the project.

Suggested strategic partners

- L.B. Barking & Dagenham Children's Services (link to Children's Centres and schools/Parent Support Advisors)
- L.B. Barking and Dagenham Adult & Community Services (link to specialist support services for people with disabilities and voluntary and community sector organisations)
- L.B. Barking and Dagenham Regeneration & Economic Development (employer engagement and job brokerage linkages)
- Jobcentre Plus
- FE providers including the Adult College of Barking and Dagenham and Barking and Dagenham College