

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member (Children’s Services)
Cabinet Member (Regeneration)

DATE: 7th December 2010
15th December 2010

SUBJECT: Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/ European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed Provision

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Morgan
Strategic Director Children’s Services
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Planning and Economic Development Director

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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members of the progress of two Skills Funding Agency and the ESF Co-financed funded projects.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Cabinet approval is required for Sefton Council to:-

- Enter into a contract that would extend the life of the two projects to March 2011, and to accept additional £78,025.50 funding,

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Agree that Contracts be entered into with SFA for Learning & Support during KS4 and Retention in Post 16 Learning projects until 31 March 2011

Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Children’s Services

2. Note the report
3. Request further progress reports.

KEY DECISION: None

FORWARD PLAN: None

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: After the expiry of “Call in Period”

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Any proposals not to support and continue with the provision of such services risks future provision becoming unsustainable, and loss of pre matched funding for this purpose.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial:

The two projects initially attracted a combined funding package of £1,274,168 from the then Learning and Skills Council (LSC), now SFA, and the European Social Fund (ESF). The Post 16 project has now been allocated an additional £78,025.50 while both projects have been granted a time extension until 31 March 2011.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2011 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
Specific Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	0	0	0	0
Funded from External Resources	0	0	0	0
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N No	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	.			

Legal: A legal agreement will be drawn up between the provision delivery agents and Sefton Council.

Risk Assessment: NA

Asset Management: NA

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 557B – The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

Legal Dept, Finance Dept, and Children’s Services

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	/		
2	Creating Safe Communities		/	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		/	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		/	
5	Environmental Sustainability		/	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		/	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		/	
8	Children and Young People	/		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Report to Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (28th October 2008), and Cabinet Member for Regeneration (29th October 2008), entitled LSC ESF Co-Financed Provision.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Cabinet Members for Children's Services (28th October 2008) Regeneration (29th October 2008) considered a report entitled LSC ESF Co-financed Provision which provided information on Learning & Supporting during KS4 (Contract value (£699,999), and Retention in Post 16 Learning (Contract Value £574,169) projects. Members noted the success in attracting £1,274,168 of external grant and approved the delivery arrangements as set out in that report.
- 1.4 These projects are currently being delivered successfully and an opportunity arose in September 2010 for Sefton Council to submit a proposal to the SFA to extend both projects until 31 March 2011, with a request for an additional amount of £78,025.50.
- 1.5 In October 2010, Sefton Council received an amendment to contract notification from the SFA confirming that both projects had been extended until 31 March 2011 and that the requested additional amount had been agreed.

2.0 Current Projects

Project 1: Learning & Support during KS4

- 2.2 The aim of this project has been to identify those young people who, during Key Stage 4, are disengaged or particularly at risk of disengaging from learning, and provide them with additional specialist support and personalised learning programmes including work related learning; and to strengthen the transition into post-16 learning for young people who, for a variety of reasons, may find this a particularly difficult challenge.

Project 2: Retention in Post 16 Learning

- 2.3 The aim of this project has been to ensure that all young people who join post 16 learning move through a clear and successful pathway of education, training or employment to the age of 19.

3.0 Current Project Delivery Arrangements

- 3.1 Service Level Agreements were agreed at the onset of the project with delivery partners named in the applications. These clearly defined roles, responsibilities, the nature of activities and what was expected from the provider and all partners, together with financial and monitoring details
- 3.2 The Authority has managed and monitored performance of the programme and its beneficiaries ensuring that delivery partners have met identified targets. The projects are currently on target to achieve or exceed the original targets.
- 3.3 These arrangements will remain in place until the revised end date of 31st March 2011, consequently existing contracts with delivery partners will need to be amended.

4.0 Management Arrangements

4.1 The overall management responsibility for the delivery of two existing projects has rested with Children's Services. This will continue with regards to any new project. Planning and Economic Development officers will continue to assist in ensuring that all contractual, monitoring and compliance procedures are met.

5.0 Risk Assessment

5.1 As indicated above there is no call on Sefton resources, other than some officer time being spent to co-ordinate and manage the two projects.

6.0 Summary

6.1 Children's Services and Planning and Economic Development officers have worked together with other partners, both internal and external to deliver two successful applications for SFA/ ESF funding.

6.2 The SFA have approved the extension of both projects until 31 March 2011, with an increase of £78,025.50.