

## **ESF funding: Careers England research on the impact of cuts**

### **Introduction**

This research has been conducted with 'enhanced' members of Careers England; organisations that predominantly provide careers related products and services, including delivery of the National Careers Service, as well as services to local authorities, schools and colleges. The research was collated in January 2018.

The data has been collated in response to the UK's departure from the European Union. Many of our members deliver programmes through the European Social Fund (ESF) and there has been no commitment from government to ensure that this investment will be replaced or continue.

### **Headline data**

- Members receive over £22m per annum of ESF funding
- They support a wide range of activities with this funding i.e. NEET prevention work, careers education, access courses, employer visits, traineeship and apprenticeship programmes, supporting vulnerable YP, offender rehabilitation, employability skills development, etc.
- Removal of this funding would result in a loss of service in schools, reduced awareness of apprenticeships, no service for the most vulnerable in society / furthest from the labour market, alienating those with issue such as mental health, inability to support domestic infrastructure, dismissal of government priorities around social mobility / skills shortages / productivity issues etc.
- 600 employees would be at risk of losing their jobs which are funded directly through ESF.

### **Raw data**

*Q1: Name of organisation*

Prospects Services  
Aspire-igen Group  
CSW Group Limited  
Career Connect  
Prospects  
Ansbury Guidance  
Inspira  
Futures Advice, skills and Employment  
CXK  
Education Development Trust

Q2: On average, how much ESF / European funding do you receive in one financial year?

£4.5million

£2m-£3m

£2,500,000

£5m

£2m

£500,000

Contracts worth £2.5m in 2017/18

£1,900,000

In 2017-18 we budgeted circa 175k income (sub-contracted). In previous years we have operated with more (i.e. contracts of + £1mill)

**Total: avg. £22.5m**

Q3: Please list the range of activities that this funding supports

- NEET prevention work with schools
- Employability skills
- Regulated and non-regulated learning delivery
- CIEAG quality awards in Schools
- Employer charters in schools
- Access to Apprenticeships and traineeships and Employment options
- Direct work with NEETS
- NEET and vulnerable young people across London
- Focus on progressing NEET into EET and mentoring for six months
- Careers Clusters that support schools and colleges to deliver innovative employability programmes
- Employer visits across London Growth Sectors for students in Key Stage 4 and 5
  
- LEP IAG and apprenticeship programmes
- Euroguidance Network rep for UK
- Erasmus projects across Europe
- Enhancing life-long learning

- Sustainable integration of NEET young people into the labour market
- Access to employment
- NOMS CFO 3 - offender rehabilitation focused on learning and employment outcomes
- NEET to EET programmes
- Employability IAG Skill development
- A 3 year Building Better Opportunities Programme (young people's strand) for vulnerable young people aged 15-24 (co-funded by European Social Fund and Big Lottery)
- NEET support both pre and post 16
- Support for unemployed and inactive in the labour market aged 19+
- NEET reduction work supporting employability skills and work readiness.
- Support for voluntary sector groups working with specific groups of individuals to help support them back into work
- Employability courses for NEET young people not ready for work
- Functional skills delivery in the community
- NEET engagement and life skills
- Tailored support for vulnerable young people

*Q4: What would the impact on service delivery be if European funding was removed?*

- Reduction of services listed
- Less IAG available for vulnerable groups in school and NEET
- Less innovation and fewer opportunities to develop new services
- Loss of service in schools (careers events, employer visits)
- Reduced awareness of apprenticeships
- Reduced links between young people, schools and employers
- Loss of representation in Europe
- Loss of international transfer of knowledge
- Contribution to development of best practice, and support for social mobility
- Inability to support domestic infrastructure.
- Our projects are through fixed-term funding. We would not run our projects without the European Funding which is currently matched with Big Lottery and ESFA funding.
- Significant reduction in depth of service provided to those furthest from EET/Employment. In total this would be c.13,500 individuals (based on contracts we presently hold)
- Removed support for unemployed and not reducing the unemployed count

- Removed support form the most vulnerable in society
- Not addressing the skills shortages / productivity issues in the country
- Alienating those most in need of help and support, e.g. mental health
- 750 vulnerable young adults across Dorset would lose a valuable support service which helps them overcome barriers and access EET
- Major impact on both co-ordinated NEET work and highly impactful support for unemployed adults which is away from traditional educational providers
- Reduced work with those furthest away from the labour market and reduced preparedness for sustainable economic activity which also reduces risks of crime, decreasing mental and physical health and general well-being.
- European funding has supported a huge number of vulnerable and NEET young people in our areas. The funding has supported delivery of innovative and tailored provision for young people that had dropped out of school at 16 and not progressed to college, 6th form or work. The funding also was used to identify and work with pre16 potential NEETs and to engage and support them into EET.

*Q5: How many staff will be affected by the removal of this funding?*

40

30 jobs would be lost on programmes. Other support staff roles would be affected.

27

75

Up to 300 in my department

25

20+

Up to 60 direct delivery staff both within the organisation and those we would fund to deliver activity.

5 FTE

**Total: avg. 600**

*Q6 Any other comments?*

The service delivery is highly respected and prized there is no other funding available for these services.

This would have a severe impact on our ability to continue to operate as we currently do. We would lose other sources of finance, such as rate relief because of our inability to sustain business growth through provision of new jobs.

Negotiation with LEPs and government departments for successor arrangements must be a priority.

We need clarity now to ensure we retain specialist staff to do this work and know what Govt intends to do.

ESF funding has allowed some innovation and has, in a small way, helped fill the gaps created with reductions in LA support in this area. Over the past two years it hasn't always been easy to make these contracts work but great progress has been made and they are seen as part of the fabric within the area.