



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds

D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: June 2018

Welcome to the June edition of the D2N2 and One East Midlands Active Engagement & Skills bulletin; news, activities and opportunities relating to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the VCS and partners. This bulletin is distributed at the start of every month; providing a round-up of recent news and highlighting what's coming up.

For information on the role of LEPs and their relevance to your work please visit the One East Midlands [policy page](#). Information specific to D2N2 can be found [here](#) at One East Midlands or on the D2N2 website at www.d2n2lep.org

If you would like to contact the Rachel Quinn at D2N2 or have items of relevance to this bulletin please contact Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org or tel: 07551 124225.

Update from Jane Howson: VCSE representative on the D2N2 Board

Governance review is well underway within the LEP Board. A Nominations committee (of which I am a member and actively involved) has been set up to oversee recruitment / replacement for the Chair, Chief Executive and other private sector board members due to step down this year. The committee is chaired by Paul Harris (Rolls Royce).

The application window for the CEO role closed 25th May. Shortlisting is taking place with interviews at the end of June.

Peter Richardson steps down as LEP Chair in July 2018. Candidates are currently being shortlisted and approached to gauge interest and commitment.

The LEP's 'Annual Conversation' with government highlighted a need to strengthen LEP governance, especially with regard to conflicts of interest. An action plan is now in place and being implemented. Further tightening is expected following clarification of LEP's future role and likelihood of a requirement for future incorporation.

All this internal focus is necessary to ensure the LEP is well placed to move forward but has placed further delays on the review of the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan. David Wallace has now taken over from the work done to date by SQW with a specific remit on increasing focus on the D2N2 locality. A Board focus group is taking place in June to agree our priorities and core aims. It is vital that the Board have the opportunity to get the big messages right and not get bogged down in the detail. The final consultation draft is not expected to be completed until autumn pending appointment of the new Chair.

Jane Howson

D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)

The next SIEAG meeting will take place on 13th June 2018. Items for the agenda include:

- Feedback from the ESF Managing Authority on issues raised regarding the D2N2 Active Inclusion Community Grants Programme and defrayal
- Future ESF call planning
- Revised D2N2 Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (for the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan)

Please send any items you would like discussed at that meeting to: rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org

ESIF Programme Updates

D2N2 Community Programme: Active Inclusion Grants Programme call REOPENED

Department for Work & Pensions announced the reopening of the call for the D2N2 Active Inclusion Grants Programme. This call is for managing agent(s) to manage the grants programme across the D2N2 area. The deadline for Stage 1 applications is **20th August 2018**. Please note this is now a single stage application process only.

This call has been reopened pending clarification of issues raised in relation to defrayal that may have prejudiced against some potential applicants. Full details of the call and links to additional background information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/active-inclusion-in-d2n2-oc08s18p1107>

The D2N2 Community Programme will provide locally owned, innovative activity in communities across D2N2 which add social value and promote excellence in equalities and environmental sustainability.

‘Active Inclusion’ is the first module of the D2N2 Community Programme which will be delivered through a delegated Community Grant programme. This grant programme aims to promote equal opportunities, improve employability and support active participation from communities across the D2N2 area. The main beneficiaries of this programme will be those who are unemployed or inactive who require dedicated support to move closer to employment.

It is envisaged that the programme will make small grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 available to support local community activity.

This call is published via the DWP open call process. The total ESF funding available to support this activity is **£1,500,000**. **ESF can support up to 50% of eligible costs. Applicants will need to have eligible match funding for the balance of costs which must be from a source other than the European Union.**

The intention is to award multiple contracts. Proposals should;

- Be for a minimum of £300,000 ESF (clarification requested);
- deliver activities eligible for ESF, and
- be in line with the D2N2 LEP Commissioning Principles and Delivery Criteria

Prospective applicants who are interested in delivering the programme can contact Rachel Quinn, D2N2 Careers, Employability and Inclusion Manager at Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org for more information

Technical assistance workshops to support potential applicants were previously held on the 30th August and 6th September 2017. [Post event pages](#), including all presentations, can be viewed on the D2N2 Technical Assistance website . A further technical assistance event to clarify changes since the previous launch will be arranged for early July – register your interest via Sandra.casey@d2n2lep.org. All those who have previously registered interest in this call will automatically be contacted.

D2N2 ESIF Committee agree Strategic Overviews for future Active Inclusion activity

The May meeting of the D2N2 ESIF Sub-Committee agreed overviews of 2 future call specifications under ESF for projects related to Inclusion priorities. The two overviews set out the structure and focus of a general '[Active Inclusion Open Call](#)' and for the [Health & Wellbeing Programme](#) (linked to skills delivery).

The call windows for both of these are not likely to open before the end of July 2018. We will keep you informed

Are you producing project videos.....?

The ESF Managing Authority will soon be adding videos made by projects in the South East to their YouTube channel. **OnTrack Thurrock** and **Essex Rural Skills** have made some high quality videos to showcase their projects, demonstrating how they are helping local people.

DWP are keen to include as many ESF project videos as possible on their YouTube Channel so please let them know when these are made so they can help share these by sending an email to ESF.2014-2020@dwg.gsi.gov.uk. DWP can also provide advice to projects wanting to make their own videos.

E-CLAIMS update

For ESF: the service has now been rolled out to all Grant Recipients, for the submission of claims and related activities. So far over 100 2017 quarter 4 claims have been submitted. Development of the service is almost complete; the Managing Authority (DWP) is currently considering the most effective way of utilising E-CLAIMS, for applications and Project Change Requests.

For ERDF: Growth Delivery Team Contract Managers continue to work with applicants to arrange access to the system; this is a phased approach but we anticipate that over 60% of ERDF applicants will be using E-CLAIMS by the summer. A number of applicants are already using E-CLAIMS to upload claims. The payment process within the system has now been automated which will make the actual payment process faster. However the ability to pay a claim in the first instance is dependent on the correct information being submitted.

East Midlands Inclusion Framework

One East Midlands, in conjunction with New Ground Consultancy, are continuing to develop an East Midlands Inclusion Framework. Some of the issues emerging from the research and consultation process include:

- Current lack of synergy regarding definition of inclusion
- Bringing together Inclusive Growth and Literal Inclusion
- The need for integrated place-based approaches and the importance of inclusive leadership

- The primacy of Empowerment, Involvement & Co-Production: The voices/views of service users/beneficiaries must be at the heart of the Framework and its implementation
- Work on its own is not the solution. However, a minimal level of economic wellbeing/security is an essential platform
- The importance of helping to tackle trauma if people are to be enabled to move along a pathway to work
- The importance of community/communities and a sense of belonging; being a part of a community and having a role to play
- The impact of macro-economic decisions on the ability of local providers to address exclusion – for instance benefit system changes

The aim is to have a completed EMIF document by the end of June.

D2N2 bid for Careers Hub

D2N2 have worked closely with partners across the area to prepare and submit a bid to the Careers and Enterprise Company for a D2N2 Careers Hub. The Hub, if successful, will enable an escalation of support and learning to c. 35 schools and educational institutions across D2N2 in the delivery of careers support and guidance for young people.

The Hub bid builds on work already being undertaken with almost 100 schools in D2N2 through the Enterprise Advisor Network; with Careers Advice being the top priority in the [D2N2 Employment & Skills Strategy](#).

To find out more about Careers work in D2N2 visit <http://www.d2n2lep.org/skills/d2n2-enterprise-adviser-network>

Apprenticeship Information Event - Wednesday 27 June

The Erasmus+ project, 'Increasing SME engagement in Apprenticeships' is a three year project that commenced on 1 September 2015. The aim of the project was to research the barriers to SMEs engagement with apprenticeships and then share best practice from around Europe on overcoming those barriers.

In the UK Gedling Borough Council are delivering a support service for SMEs to assist them with every stage of the recruitment process along with funded accredited mentoring training.

This event will explore the findings of the project and examples of the best practice found and look at one year on from the Apprenticeship reforms and what is next for apprenticeships and SMEs. For more information or to book your place see the event [flyer](#).

Watch out for legal and financial scams, warns Citizens Advice Ashfield.

People need to be on their guard against [financial and legal scams](#) following a rise in cases reported to the Citizens Advice consumer service. A total of 1200 financial and legal scams were reported to the consumer service in the year ending April 2018 - a 6% increase on the year before. The median loss for these scams was £330.

Kathryn Stacey, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Ashfield said:

“Scammers can make for convincing white collar professionals, especially online, and are skilled at persuading people they are legitimate. When you get approached about any investment, don’t rush into anything without making sure it’s legitimate first, particularly when you’re contacted out of the blue.”

To help stop more people being fleeced by these types of scams, Citizens Advice Ashfield is sharing tips on how to spot them:

- Be suspicious if you’re contacted out of the blue, even if it’s from a name you recognise
- Don’t be rushed – you never need to make a decision straight away
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- Never send money to someone you have never met
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you
- Walk away from job ads that ask for money in advance
- Genuine computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer
- Suspect a scam? Hang up, wait five minutes to clear the line or use another phone to call
- Persuasive sales patter? Just say: “No thank you”
- Don’t suffer in silence – speak out about scams

A Few Changes at D2N2

Some of you will have noticed a few more changes here at D2N2 over recent months. The team has recently said goodbye to Katrina Woodward (Employment & Skills Commissioning Manager) and, temporarily, to Sean Kirby (Communications Manager).

As we are now also in mid-recruitment for the permanent CEO post, interim arrangements are in place for the time being. Sam Burbage continues in role as Media & Marketing Officer; Richard Kirkland (ESIF Manager) takes on lead for Skills and Rachel Quinn will now be lead for Careers and Employability in addition to her existing Inclusion focus.

New Chair Appointed at D2N2 Growth Hub

D2N2 Growth Hub, the business support service for small and medium sized enterprises in D2N2, has appointed Melanie Ulyatt MBE as its new chair.

Melanie, who is Managing Director of domiciliary care and training provider One to One Support Services, has been a member of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board since 2016 and from this month takes on the role of chair of the Growth Hub board. She replaces David Williams, Director at 3w Growth Ltd, who served as chair for the past three years and who oversaw the launch and establishment of the Growth Hub.

For more information read the full article at: <http://www.d2n2lep.org/News/new-chair-appointed-at-d2n2-growth-hub>

And of course no bulletin would be complete without.....

D2N2 and GDPR – What are we doing?

The new General Data Protection Regulation comes into effect on May 25th 2018 and we're letting you know how we collect, protect and handle your personal data.

We collect your data to enable us to keep in touch with you about the work of D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership. Data is limited to work-related information, such as email address, phone number and organisation.

We collect your data when you share your information with us when registering for an event, signing up to a newsletter or expressing an interest in a funding call. We take appropriate steps in accordance with the GDPR to protect your data. Access to the mailing list is limited and protected via the use of passwords.

We may share your data with event speakers so that they can tailor events to suit the audience. We do not sell data to any organisation.

You have many rights regarding your personal data, including seeing what data we access, and updating your information. This bulletin is sent to you via the One East Midlands web service and you are always able to unsubscribe from bulletins using the 'unsubscribe' link at the bottom of each bulletin or by emailing office@one-em.org.uk.

You don't need to do anything right now, but if you'd like to find out more please do not hesitate to get in touch or view the D2N2 LEP [privacy policy](#) online.

This project is part-funded by the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.