GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

UK Shared Prosperity Fund in London
Support for Young Londoners bidding round
Frequently Asked Questions

Updated – 13/10/2023

The GLA has published this FAQ to answer key questions related to UKSPF in London. Further questions and information will be added and/or updated as and when required.

For any questions that are not covered here, please contact UKSPF@london.gov.uk

For queries relating to the wider UKSPF in London, please refer to section F. Overview of UKSPF in London.

A. General questions on UKSPF People and Skills

A1. When does People and Skills launch? (updated 29/09/2023)

The UKSPF People and Skills investment priority was originally due to start in April 2024. However, the government announced in March 2023 it was removing this restriction and delivery could commence in April 2023. The GLA has worked to bring forward delivery into the current financial year where possible.

Projects funded under this call are expected to begin delivery by 1 April 2024, but may start delivery from January 2024 at their own risk before a GLA decision on awards has been made. For successful projects, claims for eligible milestones outputs and outcomes which are achieved from 1 January 2024 may be submitted, and will be retrospectively funded, once a funding agreement is in place.

B. Questions on the 'Support for Young Londoners' bidding round

B1. Are there any minimum Ofsted requirements for this bidding round?

No, there are no specific requirements relating to Ofsted.

B2. Will all these funds be earmarked during this current bidding round?

The GLA intends to commit all funding allocated to this call.

B3. Is there a minimum project duration requirement?" (underlined: updated 29/09/23)

Projects are expected to begin by 1 April 2024 and must end delivery by 31 March 2025. There is no minimum or maximum project duration, but projects will be expected to meet the criteria in the Project Requirements, including the expected outputs and outcomes, within the lifetime of the project.

B4. Can you please confirm whether there is a maximum cap on management fees that lead contractors/bidders can charge to delivery subcontractors?

Projects will be paid on the achievement of milestones, outputs and results. We do not prescribe what costs projects should incur but we ask applicants to explain and justify their project costs in their application. However, we would anticipate that the majority of the project costs will be spent on direct delivery.

B5. Can you please confirm whether participants need to reside within a specific London Borough postcode as stipulated for each Grant Package Area? (updated 29/09/23)

Participants on Universal NEET and Targeted NEET projects are expected to live within the Grant Package Area. Participants on Quality Work Experience projects must be studying at an education institution which is within the Grant Package Area, as explained in the Project Requirements.

B6. Can projects under the Support for Young Londoners bid be ring fenced for a particular GPA area of it needs to be accessible to all YP in a particular GPA?

The Project Requirements set out the criteria for each of the programmes in relation to delivery geography and the target group for support.

B7. Our approach for onboarding would target via demographic based Facebook ads, as we currently onboard students today - this makes it difficult to break down into areas as requested. How should we proceed?

Depending on the programme of activity, participants are expected to live within, or attend an institution, in the Grant Package Area (see the response to question B5 above). You will need to take this into account when planning your project.

B8. Can we only bid for one GPA area, or can we bid for multiple areas?

An organisation may submit more than one application. Please refer to section 5.3 of the Prospectus for information about the maximum number of grants awarded.

B9. Can we bid for the Universal NEET and also the Targeted NEET contract or do we have to choose one contract only?

An organisation may submit more than one application. Please refer to section 5.3 of the Prospectus for information about the maximum number of grants awarded.

B10. Can an organisation bid as a lead provider but also join another organisation's supply chain?

An organisation could apply as both a lead provider and as a supply chain partner. At the award stage we may request clarification about an organisation's capacity to deliver as part of multiple supply chains.

B11. Can the 24/25 local authority UKSPF allocations be used for NEET employment and skills support?

The local authority/sub-regional partnership (SRP) UKSPF allocations will be used to support economically inactive and unemployed people in their local areas. To ensure added value and minimise duplication, across UKSPF People & Skills provision, UKSPF activity led by the SRPs should focus on adults aged over 18.

B12. We have one year accounts and two years management accounts, usually this is acceptable for government bids we have won previously. Is this acceptable

Please refer to Appendix 12: Financial Due Diligence Guidance for further information.

B13. Can you confirm whether we need to submit two years of accounts or three? (updated 29/09/2023)

Two years of accounts are required. Please refer to Appendix 12: Financial Due Diligence Guidance for further information.

B14. Are you expecting employment outcomes to meet the Good Work Definition? If so, do all job outcomes need to meet this definition or is this a target for Good Work outcomes? Is there a difference for self-employment outcomes or would this need to meet the Good Work definition also?

Please refer to Annex A of the Project Requirements for the definitions and evidence requirements for that programme.

29/09/2023 update (including questions from the information event)

B15. There is a diversity objective to enrol 50% women, 50% BAME and 10% Disability. Do we have an option to focus on one of these targets or have to meet them all?

The Project Requirements set out the expected minimum proportions of participants from each of the Equality Groups. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to achieve and their rationale for this.

B16. How can we combine UKSPF with AEB? Are providers allowed to combine UKSPF and AEB funding i.e. use AEB to fund training needs for learners registered for UKSPF?

It may be possible to use this approach, however if AEB is being used to fund training needs as part of the project, this would not count as a progression outcome.

B17. Please can you clarify whether graphics and diagrams are allowed, and if so, are they contained with the word count.

Graphics and diagrams can be included in the application form and they will count towards the word count.

B18. Can you please provide more details on the match funding details you expect in the application form as there is no requirement for match funding?

Details of any match funding used, and how it complements the UKSPF-funded activity should be included within section 5.2 of the application.

B19. Can charities take part?

Yes, a charity may apply to run a project or join a partnership under this call.

B20. Is it possible to support some participants outside of the GPA or do you expect all out-of-GPA participants to be referred to the relevant provider? If the young people have already left school/education, will it be based on where they went to school?

For the Universal and Targeted NEET projects, participants should live within the Grant Package Area. For the Quality Work Experience they should be attending an education institution within the GPA.

B21. Is there an expectation that providers bid for the full amount of funding / participant volumes commitment, where there is only a single award in a GPA expected?

Yes, this is our expectation.

B22. Are you able to accept applications from partnerships of providers?

Partnership or consortium bids will be welcomed, particularly where specialist or grassroots organisations and a multi-agency approach are integral to delivery.

B23. How is an employment outcome measured, more specifically is there a minimum hour requirement to be met by the participant to result in a successful employment outcome?

Please refer to Annex A of the Project Requirements for the definitions and evidence requirements for that programme.

B24. Can you please clarify what "Participant cost" entails?

A participant cost is a cost directly associated with support to a participant. This could include, for example, travel or subsistence costs, allowances, items of personal equipment such as work boots or IT devices.

B25. If we don't bid in our own right, will there be an opportunity to work in partnership or sub-contracting arrangements?

Partnership or consortium bids will be welcomed, particularly where specialist or grassroots organisations and a multi-agency approach are integral to delivery.

B26. Do we need to engage the entire age group 16 - 24 or can we focus on 18 - 24 year olds?

For Universal NEET, we would expect that young-people across the entire age-range (i.e. 16-24) would be able to access support. However it is for each applicant to set out the target group(s) they propose to support and their rationale for this.

B27. When will the definition for 'distance travelled' be available, and what evidence is required for this?

It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to measure to demonstrate distance travelled and their rationale for this. The evidence requirements will be set for each individual project based on the information included in their application.

B28. How are the outcome targets split across the areas?

The total outcome targets for the programme of activity are included within the Project Requirements. The expected minimum number of outputs and outcomes are provided in the Quality Work Experience Project Requirements, while indicative targets for starters are included in the Project Requirements for Universal NEET. However, it is for each applicant to set out what outputs and outcomes they propose to achieve and their rationale for this.

B29. Has any consideration been given to the fact the GPAs do not match the NHS ICS regions?

The Grant Package Areas align with the local Government sub-regional partnership areas.

B30. As you are looking for a variety of providers to deliver these programmes? Will you be keen to fund smaller projects as well as larger ones?

Any legally constituted organisation may apply to run a project. The funding available is set out within the Project Requirements.

B31. Can getting someone onto AEB be counted as a 'training' outcome?

An AEB course could be counted as a progression outcome, but note also the answer to questions B16 and B39.

B32. Can you confirm the minimum duration of an 'In education or training following support' outcome?

There is no minimum duration for this outcome. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this. If successful, projects will also need to demonstrate within the participant records how the provision meets the individual participant's needs and future career aspirations.

B33. We have access to sustainable jobs across the Supply Chains of Tier 1 contractors, these are London wide so could we submit 4 partnership applications?

It is possible for an applicant to submit more than one application and/or to be part of a partnership in more than one application. Please refer to section 5.3 of the Prospectus for further information.

B34. We would like to provide support and outcomes before and after the young person has progressed to EET. Is this possible?

Projects may continue to support a young person once they have progressed into EET. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

B35. Could you confirm what definition of 'multiple disadvantage' you are using?

The expectations are set out in the Project Requirements. It is for each applicant to define the participants that they will be working with and provide the rationale for this.

B36. Can you confirm expectations relating to contract mobilisation given the short turnaround between award notification and start date?

Projects are expected to begin delivery by 1 April 2024 at the latest.

B37. Do we need to show match funding on the PTC as income coming and therefore total costs greater than funding request?

Match funding should not be included in the PTC. Details of any match funding used, and how it complements the UKSPF-funded activity should only be included within section 5.2 of the application.

B38. Is it possible to progress between programmes i.e. from Quality Work Experience to Universal NEET?

It may be possible for a participant who is 'at risk of NEET' to be supported on a Quality Work Experience programme and for the same person to subsequently become NEET and benefit from the support provided by a Universal NEET or Targeted NEET programme run by a different provider, however due to the different target groups specified for each programme, it is not expected that this would be a frequent occurrence.

B39. Is it possible for an existing GLA AEB provider to progress learners from the NEET programme directly onto their own GLA AEB provision, potentially in quite large numbers, and claim the progression into education outcome by progressing learners through onto their own GLA AEB provision?

It is possible to progress learners onto AEB provision (see also questions B16 and B31). We expect delivery to respond to individual needs and aspirations. As each participant is likely to require different durations and types of support, we would not anticipate that large numbers of participants would all achieve the same progression outcome, however it is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this. If successful, projects will also need to demonstrate within the participant records how the provision meets the individual participant's needs and future career aspirations.

B40. Are there any anticipated TUPE requirements as part of any of the lots or GPAs?

There are no TUPE requirements associated with this bidding round.

B41. Is there a minimum number of hours of support a participant must receive prior to progression in order for them to be recorded as an outcome?

It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

B42. The scoring framework references mandatory annexes and supporting documents that are required to be submitted with the application form, can you please confirm what these are?

You are required to submit the following documents:

- A fully completed Application form in Word format
- A fully completed Payment Trigger Calculator (PTC) in Excel format
- A participant journey diagram PDF or Word format (may be embedded in your application)
- A project organogram PDF or Word format (may be embedded in your application)

Private, voluntary sector and charitable organisations are also required to submit: financial accounts for the most recent two years; proof of existence; and proof of trading (see page 28 of the Prospectus).

B43. What role can the GLA play in trying to broker connections with other organisations?

The GLA is unable to provide a specific service to put organisations in touch with one another. However we have published the list of attendees to our information event here. This list also includes information on the programme of activity that attendees are interested in. This provides a useful starting point for organisations searching for partners.

B44. To clarify; for each strand of activity (universal NEET, Targeted NEET, Work experience) are you expecting to award one grant across each sub-regional GPA?

No. As set out in the Project Requirements, we intend to award one grant per GPA for Quality Work Experience and one grant per GPA for Universal NEET. For Targeted NEET we will award multiple grants of between £200,000 and £400,000 in each GPA.

For Targeted NEET, we will seek to broadly reflect the proportions of NEET young people in each GPA in the total funding that we award for delivery in each GPA. However, the actual number of Targeted NEET grants awarded will depend on the quality of applications and the value of the application for funding (i.e. we have an overall budget of £5m, so if all of the successful applicants request £400,000, we will not be able to award as many grants as we would if all applicants request £200,000).

B45. Does the GPA (Grant Package Area) value for East London (Local London SRP) roughly work out as follows: Universal NEET = £1.4 million; Targeted NEET = £1.6 million, Work experience = £675,000.

The indicative budgets per GPA for Universal NEET and Quality Work Experience are set out in section 3.1 of the Project Requirements.
For Targeted NEET, the total funding value has not been specifically set, but we will seek to broadly reflect the proportions of NEET young people in each GPA in the total funding that we award for delivery in that GPA.

B46. The GLA states that funding awards will be a maximum of £400,000, is this right?

The indicative budgets per GPA for Universal NEET and Quality Work Experience are set out in section 3.1 of the Project Requirements. The GLA expects to award one grant per GPA for these programmes of activity, therefore the maximum funding award is the indicative budget for each GPA.

For Targeted NEET, the minimum funding award is £200,000 and the maximum is £400,000 and we expect to award more than one grant in each GPA.

06/10/2023 update

B47. Our annual accounts for April 2022 – March 2023 have not yet been signed off by our trustees and we expect this to be before the end of the

calendar year. With that in mind, would it be sufficient for us to provide the audited annual accounts for the following years with our application?
- **April 2019 – March 2020**
- **April 2020 – March 2021**
- **April 2021 - March 2022**

It would be sufficient to provide annual accounts for the two previous financial years.

B48. Are we allowed to offer accredited and non-accredited qualifications and training in the Sector Subject Areas (SSAs) like:
- **6.00-Information and Communication Technology (6.20-ICT for Users) and digital marketing.**
- **14.00-Preparation for Life and Work (14.20-Preparation for Work)**
- **15.00-Business, Administration and Law (15.10-Accounting and Finance)**

The target group for the WEX programme are young people who are still in education but at risk of becoming NEET, while the aim of the Universal NEET and Targeted NEET programmes is to support young Londoners who are NEET to access training or employment. Therefore, it is not expected that delivery of accredited training would be a significant element of these UKSPF programmes.

This funding should not be used to fund training that is already available and funded through other programmes (such as AEB). If a provider considers that a particular accredited training course is appropriate to meet the needs of an individual, they may deliver training to that individual (but note also the responses to questions B16, B31 and B39), however it may be more appropriate to support the individual to access an existing available course delivered by another provider, which could then generate a claimable progression outcome.

B.49 Could you clarify whether the GLA Ops system will be used to capture key MI data and evidence for the contracts, or whether the provider is expected to utilise their own system?

Whilst detailed reporting and claims processes are currently being developed, we anticipate that high level reporting of outputs (and payment for those outputs) will take place on GLA OPS, with more detailed MI data submitted separately in an Excel spreadsheet which the GLA will supply.

B50. Project Details section 1.7 asks us to state what percentage of participants will come from each borough. Will this form part of the funding agreement and if we do not achieve the percentage in one borough will payment be held back, or if targets are not met will we be able to pick up the remaining percentage from other boroughs?

These borough level figures should be your expectations for delivery when bidding. It would be very unlikely a project reaches exactly the planned number of young people in each borough and projects will be able to make up shortfalls in one borough in another in their Contract Package Area. However, we will review your delivery to check the delivery pattern remains similar to the borough level profile in your bid and discuss any significant changes.

13/10/2023 update

B51. How often do we make claims- monthly or quarterly?

Grant recipients will be required to submit quarterly claims, please see section 5.7 of the prospectus for further information on payments to projects.

B52. Please could you confirm if there is a page size restriction for the learner journey and/or the organogram?

No, there is no size restriction for supporting documents. Please be aware that the maximum file size permitted in a single email is 10MB.

B53. Within Part B Section 3 of the Application Form ('About your project and its strategic fit'), you have stated: *Please consider equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and environmental sustainability in your response. This will be considered when scoring your application*. For absolute clarity, please can you confirm if you expect EDI and environmental sustainability to be featured in all Section 3 responses? If so, could this potentially duplicate the responses provided for questions 6.7 and 6.8?

The detailed questions on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and environmental sustainability are included in section 6. You should show that you have considered equality, diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability throughout your application.

B54. Part B Section 5 of the Application Form ('Finance'), "5.3 Only VAT that cannot be recovered from HMRC as part of the VAT system is eligible to be included in your project costs. Will VAT be included in the expenditure of your project?" Although the question is not scored, what are the ramifications of choosing Yes or No?

The question is being asked to understand whether VAT is being included with the project costs or not.

B55. On the one hand, the Young People programme is aligned to the financial year with the end date set at 31/03/2025. On the other hand, there are outcomes/outputs around getting people into Education with the academic year running September – July. Do you have any advice on how we can reconcile these in terms of planning our delivery of outcomes/outputs?

Projects should take this into account when planning their project activity and potential progressions. All outcomes must have been achieved by 31 March 2025.

B56. With the programme running for one year, what would you envisage the approach should be toward the final quarter and any potential new starters/referrals? Is it better to refuse new starters or plan an exit strategy for them?

It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

C. Questions on the Targeted NEET programme:

C1. The Project Requirements refer to supporting a minimum of 2,194 young people who are NEET across the programme. Does that number refer to young people supported across the activities of all organisations who are successful in receiving funds? Or the numbers of young people who will be supported by one project/organisation? (updated 06/10/2023)

The number refers to the minimum number of young people expected to be supported by the total available funding for the Targeted NEET programme. The same principle applies to the other two Project requirements.

22/09/2023 update

C2. Is the difference between the Universal NEET and Targeted NEET, that the Targeted NEET programme is more about getting young people ready for employment, education, and training, whereas the Universal NEET is about projects that get them into education, employment, or training?

The difference between the two NEET programmes is the target group that you will be working with. Both are expected to support young people to progress into education, employment or training, however as set out in the Project Requirements, we would expect a higher proportion of participants on the Universal NEET programme to progress into EET.

C3. In relation to payment by outcomes, if we are getting young people ready for employment, education, or training, can our outcomes relate to gaining accreditation and increasing core skills and attending work placements? We're

not sure if there is an expectation that outcomes will relate to getting young people into education, employment, or training. We work with young people who are some distance away from achieving that.

The outputs and outcomes for each of the programmes are set out in the Project Requirements. Please refer to Annex A of the Project Requirements for the definitions and evidence requirements for that programme.

C4. I'd like to gain clarification please on the outcome elements linked to payments. For example, for the targeted NEET activity, it states that 30% of the grant payment is linked to an EET outcome. Elsewhere in the project requirement document, it states the EET target for this activity is 25%. Does this mean that the 30% of the grant will be paid if 25% of the cohort achieve EET?

For the Targeted NEET programme, 25% of the starters are expected to achieve an EET outcome. 30% of the total budget has been allocated to this outcome, and a payment will be made for each outcome achieved.

29/09/2023 update (including questions from the information event)

C5. Are refugee young people included in this programme?

Yes, refugee young people are eligible to participate in this programme.

C6. Is it permitted to use the funding available for the Targeted NEET to be used to establish a 1-year Level 2 paid sports coaching Apprenticeship, with the aim of getting them into full time employment upon completion?

Apprenticeships are funded by the Department for Education. UKSPF funding cannot be used to fund the costs of delivering an apprenticeship qualification. However, projects may provide wrap-around support to a young person to progress onto an apprenticeship.

C7. For Targeted NEET can you confirm that there is no payment penalty for not achieving the EDI targets?

There is no payment directly attached to achieving the EDI targets. Applicants are expected to set out their expected EDI achievement rates and their rationale for these in their applications, and successful projects are expected to do everything they can to achieve their agreed EDI targets. The GLA reserves the right to reduce or withdraw funding if a delivery partner is not delivering their project in accordance with their approved application.

C8. Can an individual smaller organisation apply or are you looking for larger partnerships?

Any legally constituted organisation may apply to run a project. The funding available is set out within the Project Requirements.

C9. Can we bid on just 2/3 boroughs within an SRP?

For Quality Work Experience and Universal NEET, projects are expected to deliver across the whole of the Grant Package Area (GPA). For Targeted NEET, activity may be focused on a smaller geographical area within the GPA.

C10. Our target group would be the Orthodox Jewish community in Hackney and Haringey where the vast majority will not pursue mainstream provision and support because of religious and cultural parameters such as their need for separate gender programmes, and the need for programmes to be provided in a culturally appropriate setting. Once young people leave their community schools any further education and /or training will need to be provided within the community in order to make it accessible.
Could we apply under targeted NEET for this cohort of users?

It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

C11. Our AEB grant this year was reduced by 40% from what we applied for. Can you confirm that if we are successful with this application but the size of our budget is reduced in the same manner, and it consequently falls below the £200k minimum threshold, our project will still be able to go ahead?

We do not intend to award less than £200k to any Targeted NEET project.

C12. Can we confirm that the starts target for the East London Targeted NEET GPA (Local London SRP) is 703 (32% of 2,194)?

For Targeted NEET, the GLA expects the funding awarded to broadly reflect the proportion of NEET young Londoners in each GPA, as set out in section 3.1 of the Project Requirements. However, we anticipate more than one application per GPA, and within the overall Targeted NEET population in each GPA there is likely to be a different proportion of young people facing any particular disadvantage or combination of disadvantages, therefore there is no specific target for funding or total starts in each GPA. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver, how many people they propose to support and their rationale for this.

06/10/2023 update

C13.Can there be multiple providers (successful applicants) per borough?

For Targeted NEET, we anticipate projects will support different target groups in communities where young people most need support, therefore it is possible that there could be more than one successful application per borough, each supporting a different target group. The GLA is seeking to fund a programme which reaches as far as possible across the whole Greater London geography, so the delivery area of successful projects will be considered by the Strategic Moderation Panel and if the panel considers that coverage across a particular GPA would not reflect the needs/demands in that GPA, they may offer an award to a lower scoring application over a higher scoring application; require successful applicants to change/reduce the number of target groups they are proposing to support; or require successful applicants to change/reduce the number of geographical areas in which they are proposing to deliver as described in section 7.1.5 of the prospectus. It is for each applicant to set out the target group they propose to support, the area in which they propose to deliver and their rationale for this in their applications.

C14. Can we offer projects within a local ward rather than borough wide?

Yes, for Targeted NEET, it is possible for a project to propose delivering in a geographical area which is smaller than a GPA or borough. It is for each applicant to set out the target group they propose to support, the area in which they propose to deliver and their rationale for choosing this area in their application.

13/10/2023 update

C15. Could you please clarify whether asylum seekers are eligible for the Targeted NEET programme?

As stated in the government's prospectus, UKSPF is intended to help communities across the country, support people living or working in the UK, citizens with permission to work here. It will be the grant recipient's responsibility to check participant eligibility.

C16. Can you clarify whether volunteering is included in the EET related activities for the targeted NEET provision, given the additional barriers to participation these young people face?

Volunteering could be included as part of the activities delivered within the project, but would not count as a progression to EET outcome.

C17. We have worked on payment on results contracts previously and wanted to check whether should be working out our calculations in a similar manner, on a cost per head basis. I can see by the PTC that the milestone payments are based on the % of participants we feel will achieve in the unit rates breakdown,

so if we were to perform in line with our projected performance, could you clarify how our payments are calculated?

The PTC will calculate the unit cost, based on the number of outputs and outcomes that the applicant sets out in their application. For each output or outcome achieved, the respective unit cost set out in the PTC will be paid, up to the maximum value allocated for that output or outcome. Overperformance will not automatically be reimbursed, and underperformance will not be reallocated to other outputs or outcomes.

C18. Can you advise what would happen if we over performed in any of the PTC allocations- e.g we started 110 participants on the project, 90% achieving progression outcomes and 50% went into EET. Would our payments be varied e.g we could claim for more starts, progression and EET outcomes, or are they capped at our original budget? I understand if we underperformed we just would only be paid in line with the unit amount.

Projects will be paid in line with the unit costs and volumes set out in the PTC. Overperformance will not automatically be reimbursed.

D. Questions on the <u>Universal NEET programme</u>:

<u>22/09/2023 update</u>

D1. I would like to clarify the allocation of the £4.5 million. Is this budget spread across the entire five-year period? (<u>updated 29/09/2023</u>)

As stated in question B3 we expect projects to begin delivery by 1 April 2024 and must end by <u>31 March 2025</u>. Projects may choose to start earlier at their own risk. The budget is set for this funding period only.

D2. Is a project focussing on a single employment sector (e.g. health and social care or hospitality) in scope for this call? Or is there an expectation that projects are to engage across multiple key growth sectors?

It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

D3. We understand that it is the GLA's preference that progressions are sustainable where possible for a minimum of 3 months. Are you expecting delivery organisations to hit 3-month EET sustainability targets within the contract period? (<u>updated 29/09/2023</u>)

The paid result for both NEET programmes is entry to EET, in accordance with the definitions set out in Annex A of the Project Requirements. However, it is the GLA's

preference that the EET opportunities accessed by participants should be able to be sustained.

D4. Our project would be around 400 guided learning hours, at a cost of £3,500 - this is higher than the c.£1,500 given the budget and estimated learner starts. Is there an upper cap on the applications?

The Project Requirements specify the minimum number of young people expected to be supported by the total available funding for the programme. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

D5. Can either the Universal NEET or Targeted NEET incorporate Quality Work Experience elements as well? Our project will provide work experience as well as one of the NEET activities above.

Work experience may be delivered as part of the support provided to young people under both Universal NEET and Targeted NEET. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

D6. Is there a target percentage split between engaging economically inactive and unemployed target groups? Are there any minimum targets with regards to these groups?

The Payment Trigger Calculator requires you to specify how many of your participants will be economically inactive and unemployed. It is for each applicant to set out what they propose to deliver and their rationale for this.

29/09/2023 update (including questions from the information event)

D7. An apprenticeship is often below the LLW. Does that mean this outcome will be counted as part of the Universal NEET outcomes?

An apprenticeship could be counted as a progression outcome.

An entry to employment (including an apprenticeship) which is paid at the national minimum wage or above is eligible to be claimed as a progression outcome for Universal NEET or Targeted NEET projects. In addition, the GLA encourages delivery partners to help their participants to secure 'good jobs', paid at the London Living Wage or above, and therefore requires projects to report the number of participants who achieve an entry to employment in a 'good job'.

D8. If an organisation is working with a mixture of Universal NEET Young People, including a proportion of Targeted NEET Young People with 'additional support needs' which funding category would they apply for? I.e. in order to be eligible for 'Targeted NEET' funding what percentage of young people

served by the programme would have to have significant additional support needs?

In order to be eligible for Targeted NEET, all participants would need to have significant additional support needs.

D9. Can you clarify what you mean by 'into Training'?

The outputs and outcomes for each of the programmes are set out in the Project Requirements. Please refer to Annex A of the Project Requirements for the definitions and evidence requirements for that programme.

13/10/2023 update

D10. Can a participant be counted as a progression to Training and be counted as a progression to Job?
Yes a participant may be reported against more than one, and potentially all, of the outputs and outcomes. However, only <u>one</u> payable EET outcome can be claimed for an individual participant. Please refer to section 2.2 of the project requirements for further details.

E. Questions on the Quality Work Experience programme:

29/09/2023 update (including questions from the information event)

E1. Would you consider awarding more than 4 grants e.g. Quality Work experience?

A maximum of 4 grants will be awarded for Quality Work Experience; one per Grant Package Area.

E2. Can you clarify what counts as an SME?

Please check the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) definition [here](#).

E3. Is there a mobilisation payment for the quality work experience before hitting the first milestones?

There is no mobilisation payment for the Quality Work Experience programme.

E4. does a bid have to cover the whole GPA/careers hub area, or can it focus on one or two boroughs only?

For Quality Work Experience and Universal NEET, projects are expected to deliver across the whole of the Grant Package Area (GPA). If an applicant wishes to propose delivering in a smaller area, a clear rationale for this will need to be included in their application. For Targeted NEET, activity may be focused on a smaller geographical area within the GPA.

E5. In the project requirements for work experience it states you will be awarding 4 grants (one per GPA), what will be the number of participants per grant awarded?

The expected minimum number of outputs and outcomes per GPA are set out in section 3.2 of the Quality Work Experience Project Requirements. However, it is for each applicant to set out what outputs and outcomes they propose to achieve and their rationale for this in their applications.

E6. Does the whole 10 or 25 hours have to be completed by the same employer or can it be more than one?

The time requirement can include more than one employer.

E7. Would delivery of hair and beauty fall into culture or the creative industries?

Hair and beauty do not fall into the culture and creative industries sectors. Hairdressing and beauty therapy fall into the retail and commercial/service enterprises sector as per the government's skills Sector Subject Area (SSA) designations.

E8. Can a learner do a 10 hour placement and the same learner then progress to a further 15 hours so the individual learner does 25 hours in total, and both payments are claimed for this learner, or can a learner only do either a 10 hour placement or a 25 hour placement?

As set out in the Project Requirements, a student may be reported once against completing 10 hours work experience and then once against completing an additional 15 hours work experience, making 25 hours in total.

Students can complete a placement longer than 25 hours, however, note that a total of 25 hours, is required to access both payments; 10 hours for the first payment and a further 15 (taking the total to 25) for the second payment.

A 15 hour work experience cannot be claimed for a student that has not already completed a 10 hour work experience.

E9. What is the eligibility and evidence criteria for 'at risk of NEET?

Students must be confirmed as being at risk of NEET by their education institution, or by another appropriate authority. Please refer to section 1.4 of the Project Requirements document for further information.

06/10/2023 update

E10. Could we explore a model that sees say 50 people do a two-day blended session at an event venue, where the employer comes and runs a two-day workshop geared at providing work exp at scale or are you purely looking for traditional placements at the employer workplace?

We are looking for individually tailored work experience placements in the workplace, rather than in other locations. In terms of size, placements may be delivered individually or in small groups, but we envisage larger group placements would not be able to be tailored to specific participants adequately.

E11. We're interested in potentially delivering a sector specific work experience programme, is there appetite for the grants to be for these types of initiatives? The sector would fall within one of your identified focus sectors (culture and creative sector) but would be a sector specific programme.

Bidders can suggest tailoring their project in terms of sector (either fully delivering in a particular sector, or having a particular focus on a sector within a broader project), but will need to make a good case that this is deliverable and why it is desirable. It should be noted that placements should be tailored to the needs of students, and not all eligible students in any given subregion will want experience in roles in any one sector.

F. Overview of UKSPF in London

F1. Where can I find out more about UKSPF?

The starting place is the UK government's UKSPF prospectus, which can be found here.

For London, an investment plan has been agreed, and is available on the GLA's UKSPF webpage here. This plan sets out what London proposes to achieve with its UKSPF allocation. It was co-designed with London Councils, the collective voice of local government for London.

F2. How much money is London receiving?

£144,444,970 over three years, from 2022/2023 to 2024/2025. This is split between the government's three investment priorities:

- Communities and Place (where funding is being directly allocated to London boroughs)
- People and Skills; and
- Supporting Local Business

F3. What period does UKSPF cover?

The UK government backdated the start date for UKSPF to 1 April 2022. The money must be used for activity no later than 31 March 2025.

F4. So, has the UKSPF programme launched in London?

Yes, on 5 December 2022 the government formally approved London's UKSPF investment plan.

GLA has since awarded funding under the 'Supporting local Business' investment priority to 29 projects. Also, London boroughs have received direct funding under the 'Communities and Place' and 'Supporting Local Business' priorities.

F5. How can my organisation apply for UKSPF money?

UKSPF will be made available via several different routes, depending on the investment priority. For example, there will be direct awards to organisations including to London boroughs in addition to open calls for proposals. There are more details under the investment priority headings below.

F6. Who has decided how UKSPF will be spent in London?

The GLA has been designated as the 'lead authority' for UKSPF in London (there are over 250 equivalent lead authorities across the UK). Here, the GLA and London Councils have co-designed UKSPF with input from stakeholders.

F7. Is capital and revenue funding available?

The government's UKSPF prospectus sets out the split of capital and revenue. A minimum of 10% of the funding spent in 2022-23 must be capital, 13% in 2023/24 and 20% in 2024/25.

In London, only the Communities and Place investment priority includes capital funding. Supporting Local Business and People and Skills are revenue only.

F8. Will UKSPF support London-wide or local activity?

It will depend on the route to market for each of the investment priorities. For example, there was an open invitation to bid for funding under Supporting Local Business. An applicant could propose pan-London activity if it aligned with the parameters of the prospectus.

All Communities & Place funding is being directed to the 33 London boroughs and the City of London Corporation, and it is therefore less likely to support pan-London activity.

F9. Who oversees GLA's delivery of UKSPF?

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will be monitoring the GLA.

Each lead authority, such as the GLA, is also required to establish a 'Local Partnership Group.' The government advises that where an already established group is available, then the group can be designated for UKSPF, taking care to ensure that the panel is representative and that its terms of reference meet UKSPF requirements. In London, the London Recovery Board and the Skills for Londoners Board have taken on this role.

F10. How will the success of UKSPF in London be determined?

All activity funded by UKSPF is required to achieve outputs and outcomes. This information will be reported to the GLA, which will report to government.

The government has now published further information on monitoring and evaluation. London will undertake an evaluation and is working on its details.

G. Contact information

G1. How do I contact the GLA?

Please email UKSPF@london.gov.uk

G2. How do I contact the UKSPF leads in each London borough?

Contact details are available via: https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/economic-development/ukspf-investment-plan

G3. How do I contact the UK government UKSPF team?

The government has provided this email address: UKSPFenquiries@levellingup.gov.uk.

Updated on 13/10/2023
Greater London Authority