

Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) ESOL Funding Proposal

Background

1. Previously Oxford Partnership Board (OSP) has received a copy of a Report on 'ESOL in Oxford: Transcending the Barriers', which had been produced by OCVA.
2. On 14th March 2013 the OSP considered a detailed paper on developments that had occurred since the report was produced, priorities for taking this work forward and consideration of how the work required could be resourced.
3. It was agreed that a more detailed proposal setting out actions and funding requirements be circulated to OSP members for comment.
4. An application has now been made on behalf of OCVA for ESOL training and support to the Oxford City Council, Social Inclusion Fund for a contribution of £10,000 to take this work forward. A decision on this is expected at the end of July.

The proposal

5. A summary of this application has been circulated with the papers for this meeting.

The application is aimed at:

Coordination of the ESOL Providers Forum

- Having a key point of contact and single point of enquiry.
- Ensuring the mapping of provision takes place.
- Facilitating and supporting meetings.
- Maintaining an overview and to avoid duplication of services.

Identifying the gaps in provision and working with providers to fill them.

- Providing support to the development of informal learning groups, including women's groups.
- To working with providers to promote the design and delivery of a pilot course to support ESOL Volunteers who provide classroom support to community groups in delivering ESOL courses.
- To work with providers to promote the design and delivery of a pilot course to enable bridging or access to vocational training (for example catering or retail).

To attract match funding and continuation funding to:

- Ensure the design and delivery of courses to fill the gaps in provision.
- Ensure the coordination work is sustained through the Providers Forum.

Further development of the proposal

6. Since submitting the attached proposal there has been further discussions with colleagues at the County Council. The comments received are supportive but concerns have been raised that the eligibility criteria for who will be able to access this support or who it will be targeted at is not clear.
 - Emphasis should be encouraged, supporting both children but also their parents to enable them to fully engage with their child's learning and education – linking to children's outcomes. Giving parents the capacity to engage fully and communicate with schools.
 - The language support seems to have a narrow focus, consideration should be given to literacy and numeracy support as part of this.
 - There is a need to target vulnerable groups, particularly NEET's, helping them to access education and/or employment.
7. These comments are welcome and the project will aim to accommodate them, within the level of resources that are available to us

Match funding

8. In the proposal there is reference to potential match funding from the Learning and Skills Board and the Oxford Strategic Partnership. Clearly match funding will improve the chances for the success of the City Council, Social Fund Bid and it will strengthen the partnership approach to meeting ESOL needs in the City.
9. A request for match funding from the Learning and Skills Board (LAA Skills Board funding) for £6,000 will be discussed at its meeting on 22nd July. All members of the Sub Group which makes recommendations to the Board on this funding pot have endorsed this request (subject to the comments received above).

Steering Group

10. A Steering Group will be established to oversee the delivery of the Project and funding organisations will be represented on this group, alongside ESOL Forum Members and other interested parties.

Oxford Strategic Partnership LAA Funding

A total of £85,000 was been allocated from the LAA Reward Grant to support activities which meet the objectives of the Oxford Strategic Partnership. To date £52,000 has been spent leaving £33,108 remaining. (See Appendix 1 for detail.)

Recommendation

1. To support the allocation of £4K towards the ESOL Project from the Oxford Strategic Partnership LAA Funding.
2. To consider whether partner agencies can provide any additional support to this project in kind.

Appendix 1. OSP LAA Reward Grant

	£	£
Tranch 1	52,000	
Tranch 2	<u>33,108</u>	
Total LAA Reward Money Received		85,108
Allocated (as at 29th February 2012)		
Low Carbon Oxford	20,000	
Wireless Oxford	7,500	
Wayfinding Project	7,000	
Minority Ethnic Communities Support	3,000	
Knife Crime Awareness Project	7,000	
Educational Attainment	<u>7,500</u>	
Total LAA Reward Money Allocated		<u>52,000</u>
Balance to be allocated		33,108