

REPORT TO: Community Planning Implementation Group
MEETING DATE: 16 June 2006
BY: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: New Futures Successor Fund

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To draw the ELCPPs attention to the New Futures Fund (NFF) Successor Funding made available from the Scottish Executive and to ask the East Lothian Community Planning Implementation Group to agree support of the Bridges Project's New Futures Successor Fund bid, as outlined in the draft report included in the appendix.
- 1.2 To encourage the CPIG to enter into debate about the how to take forward employability related activity across East Lothian.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the CPIG agree to support the Bridges Project bid for NFF Successor Funding.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 NFF Successor Funding was announced in early 2006. The funding was made available for those areas with NFF funded projects to help the integration of these projects into existing local infrastructure and to provide a basis for the development of Employability Frameworks across Scotland.
- 3.2 The Scottish Executive allocated funding to those CPPs which had NFF funded projects operating in their areas. For East Lothian this has meant an allocation of £85,000 over 2 years from the NFF Successor Fund.
- 3.3 The Bridges Project's 'Jumpstart' Project works mainly with young people aged 16-19 (although it covers the age group 16-21) and addresses activity to aid employability through tackling numeracy and literacy issues, improving computer skills and confidence building exercises. The Project operates across East and Mid Lothian.

3.4 Community Planning Partnerships were asked to make early decisions about the future development (including funding) of NFF projects, their relationships to Regeneration Outcome Agreements and to consider a mainstreaming approach.

3.5 4 stages in the process have been highlighted as follows:

Stage 1

By End of February 2006 CPPs to have informed projects that there has been an agreement between the Executive and CPPs that funding can continue until the end of June.

Stage 2

By 31 March 2006, CPPs to produce outline plans that set out how they plan to assess NFF Projects and the timescales for this work

Stage 3

By 30 June 2006, CPPs to have completed their assessments of projects, made decisions about any further extension of funding and to have notified projects.

Stage 4

By 30 September 2006, CPPs to produce detailed plans setting out their proposed priorities for how they intend to use the successor fund.

3.6 In order to carry forward this work a short-life sub-group of the CPIG has been convened. This Group consists of representation from the CPIG, Children's Services and from the Bridges Project. Contact was made with Midlothian to see if joined-up approaches would be beneficial and dialogue is continuing between colleagues working in this area.

3.7 It was agreed that monitoring and evaluation processes for this work, whilst taking cognisance of the ROA and East Lothian commitments to regeneration, should lie with existing mechanisms for the Changing Children's Services Fund (CCSF). The Bridges Project is currently in receipt of funds from the CCSF and it is likely to be more effective and efficient to roll-out an existing practice. In addition, as the ROA covers two target areas and the Jumpstart project covers all of East Lothian it was recognised that this could cause some difficulty in terms of monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

3.8 The process for assessing the relevance of the Jumpstart Project East Lothian has taken a 2-pronged approach. Firstly, an assessment of relevance to the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) and secondly, an assessment of relevance to the Integrated Children's Services Plan. During this work it has been shown that the Jumpstart Project fulfils a number of criteria given priority within East Lothian Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Objectives.

3.9 A report is currently being compiled to complete Stage 3 of the process. That report demonstrates the support from the CPP to access the NFF Successor Funding for the Bridges Project and highlights the difficulties the Partnership will face in mainstreaming activities into existing infrastructure at this time. A copy of the draft report is contained within the appendix.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Some implications due to the link to the Employability forum. At this stage national guidance on the Employability Forum has not been circulated.
- 4.2 The work links to the ROA via many themes but most obviously through 'Getting People back into Work in East Lothian' and 'Raising Education Attainment in East Lothian'.
- 4.3 There are links to the Integrated Children's Service's Plan, as highlighted in the appendix.
- 4.4 There are links to equality of opportunity and the need to ensure that taking steps to encourage employability are able to cope with people with diverse needs.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial – NFF funding received by the Council from the Scottish Executive will be channelled via the ELCPP to the Bridges Project
- 5.2 Personnel – n/a
- 5.3 Other – n/a

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 All Scottish Executive documentation relating to NFF Successor Funding.

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DATE	29 May 2006

			Appendix 1
CPP	East Lothian		
ROA Strategic Objective and outcome	ROA indicator	Projects Contributing to achievement of outcomes	Level of Contribution High/Medium/Low
Getting People into work in East Lothian: Increasing access to employment and further education	Total number of claimants in receipt of unemployment benefit	Jumpstart Project	Medium (due to client base)
Raising Educational Attainment in East Lothian: Increase in numeracy and literacy rates	To raise standards of achievements for all in schools especially numeracy and to achieve better levels in measures of achievement including exam results	Jumpstart Project	High (due to client base)
Integrated Children's Services Plan	ICSP Indicator	Projects Contributing to achievement of outcomes	Level of Contribution High/Medium/Low
Increase the proportion of care leavers who are in employment, training or education	Achieving, priority Objective	Jumpstart Project	Medium
Equipping all young people with the underpinning knowledge, skills and attitude that they need to make effective career decisions throughout their lives	Achieving, general target	Jumpstart Project	Medium

Targeting young people (aged 16 – 19) who are unemployed, and those still at school, who face specific barriers to employment or who are at risk of disengaging	Achieving, general target	Jumpstart Project	Medium
Continue the development of one to one work with young people not able or willing to undertake mainstream courses, giving increased attention to numeracy needs	Achieving, general target	Jumpstart Project	Medium

NFF funding

East Lothian has been allocated £85,000 over 2 years from the NFF Successor Fund. The funding is to be channelled to the Jumpstart Programme run by the Bridges Project as a project which previously received NFF monies.

The process for assessing the relevance of the project to work in East Lothian has taken a 2-pronged approach. Firstly, an assessment of relevance to the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) and secondly, an assessment of relevance to the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Regeneration Outcome Agreement

In addressing issues of multiple deprivation the Scottish Executive has prioritised action toward the most deprived 15% of the population in Scotland, highlighted by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

Within East Lothian none of our data zones fall into this category. However, 3 areas fall within the most deprived 20% of data zones, an area in Tranent, covering Northfield/Lindores and Foresters Park, an area in Prestonpans immediately around Pennypit and the Cuthill area in SW Prestonpans. During the creation of the ROA, the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership sought to make best use of the regeneration funding from Communities Scotland and Partner Agencies, combining data zones to create more 'natural communities', based on local knowledge and recognised local need. As a result the East Lothian ROA focuses on two areas within East Lothian, the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent.

Targets within the ROA cover the Scottish Executive's national priorities, as outlined in Closing the Gap, reflected at a local level as outlined in the table below.

Building strong, safe and attractive communities in East Lothian
Getting People into work in East Lothian
Improving Health in East Lothian
Raising educational attainment in East Lothian
Engaging young people in East Lothian

Whilst it is recognised that employability activity is directly relevant to the range of regeneration activity which is involved in meeting these priorities, the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership sees particular linkages to, 'Getting people back into work' and 'raising educational attainment' in East Lothian, as outlined in the template at the end of this document.

The Integrated Children's Services Plan

The Integrated Children's Service Plan for 2005 – 2008 agreed its aims as ensuring that all children are:

Aim	Definition
Safe	Children and young people should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.
Nurtured	Children and young people should live within a supportive family setting with additional assistance if required or, where this is not possible, within another care setting, ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience.
Healthy	Children and young people should enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices.
Achieving	Children and young people should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem to the fullest potential.
Active	Children and young people should be active, with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport.
Respected and Responsible	Children, young people and their carers should be involved in decisions that affect them, should have their voices heard and should be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities
Included	Children, young people and their families should have access to high quality services, when required, and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical environmental and economic barriers that create inequality

The major linkage here to employability issues fall within the section dealing with Achieving and the priority objectives and general targets as shown in the table below.

About the Project

Jumpstart works mainly with young people aged 16-19 (although covers the age group 16-21) and addresses activity to aid employability through tackling numeracy and literacy issues, improving computer skills and confidence building exercises.

Assessment of Project

Linkages to ROA /ICSP	Contributing Outcomes for Jumpstart
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<p>Increasing access to employment and further education (ROA)</p> <p>(It should be noted that Bridges is awaiting updated and final information from NFF for the whole period of the contract. The figure of 63 young people reflects closures only up to 31 December 2005. It therefore excludes new referrals, people still being worked with and closures post 31 December.)</p>	<p>New Futures Funding was premised on the understanding that the young people referred were the most removed from the labour market and were not engaged in any process which would lead to future economic independence. The funding was to enable the young people to undertake first stage work for acquiring employability skills (not employment) as a prerequisite to them being able to access mainstream activities. Therefore, the focus was on the achievement of 'soft' outcomes given the starting point for this population.</p> <p>Client group for project means number of claimants on unemployment benefit or a rise in school attainment levels is unlikely to change markedly as a result of the work carried out by the project. However, they will be in possession of skills that will assist them to become more employable at some time in the future.</p> <p>Most within this group fall into the NEET category and many of the NFF clients, although unemployed, are not registered as unemployed. In addition, as a result of the Jumpstart programme, some young people either remained at school or did enter further education where there had been no plan to do so.</p> <p>In total, 174 young people were referred to Jumpstart for either individual or group work. Of these, 80 engaged actively in the programme as individuals and some in group sessions. A further 12 of the original 174 engaged only in the group sessions. NFF closure forms do not include tracking information subsequent to case closure. Tracking information from partner agencies and families gives the following destinations:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr><td>Employment</td><td style="text-align: right;">27</td></tr> <tr><td>Further education</td><td style="text-align: right;">17</td></tr> <tr><td>Training</td><td style="text-align: right;">10</td></tr> <tr><td>Volunteering</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Still working with Bridges</td><td style="text-align: right;">8</td></tr> <tr><td>No destination known</td><td style="text-align: right;">16</td></tr> </table> <p>Evidence to measure individual progression in the acquisition of employability skills has been collated using <i>Bridges to Employability</i> soft measurement system. These skill areas, which encompass the relevant associated Standards, are categorised as: Reliability, Motivation/Attitude, Basic Skills, Inter-personal skills, Health and Fitness and Problem Solving skills along with the monitoring of Self-awareness/Identity and Work Readiness which encompass the additional skills requirements for excluded groups.</p> <p>Additionally, portfolio evidence is available of progress made in individual learning plans.</p>	Employment	27	Further education	17	Training	10	Volunteering	2	Still working with Bridges	8	No destination known	16
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Still working with Bridges	8												
No destination known	16												

Increase in numeracy and literacy rates (ROA)	<p>The most recent published figures, based on the unrevised figure of 63 young people, show that 19% (12) clients presented with literacy related difficulties. Specific evidence of progress made, has been collated, is available and has been derived from individual portfolios and case notes relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to communicate verbally Demonstrate literacy skills Demonstrate numeracy skills Ability to present information in written format Ability to manage money Ability to make use of everyday technology Awareness of opportunity for progression Awareness of benefit and income entitlements
Increase the proportion of care leavers who are in employment, training or education (ICSP)	New Futures Funding did not require care leavers to be specifically identified. Two young people noted that issues to do with being in residential care presented them with a barrier to employment. It can be assumed that this may be a significant under-representation.

Name of Project	Outcome of Assessment	Date project notified
Jumpstart Programme	ELCPP support NFF successor Funding bid	25 May 2006

CPP	East Lothian		
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Monitoring and evaluation

Guidance covering the monitoring and evaluation of the NFF Successor Fund has been linked to the ROA Performance Management Framework. The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership recognises the need to ensure linkages between NFF and regeneration activity. However, the East Lothian ROA covers two geographic areas and the Jumpstart Programme covers all of East Lothian, creating a mismatch between the two. As a result East Lothian Community Planning Partnership is proposing that monitoring and evaluation be linked more directly to the monitoring and evaluation processes for the Changing Children's Services Fund, from which the Bridges Project is currently in receipt of funding.