



CWLEP Skills and Jobs Business Group Meeting – 9th February

Skills 4 Growth Project Summary

The Skills 4 Growth Skills support for the workforce model has been running out of the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub since April 2014 initially using Regional Growth Fund money followed by LEP/Growth Hub funding.

Following its success utilising this funding and to ensure continued skills support for our local SME's, Coventry City Council worked with partners to submit the Skills 4 Growth project for the ESIF open call round under Priority Axis 2 Skills for Growth, theme 2.1 Enhancing Equal Access to Lifelong Learning.

It has been a long time coming but the project received its contract in December and is now live and runs from January 2017 through until December 2019.

Coventry City Council is the lead applicant and holds the contract with Warwickshire County Council providing further match funding. The project continues to be delivered out of the C&W Growth Hub.

Eligibility

We can work with Coventry and Warwickshire SMEs in the following sectors:-

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering and Service Sector Industries including;

- Human Health and Social Work activities
- Transportation & Storage
- Accommodation and Food Service activities
- Financial and Insurance Activities
- Administrative and Support Service Activities
- Information and Communication
- Real Estate activities
- Professional Scientific and technical activities
- Other Service activities

Outputs

Although eligibility is determined by company size, postcode, and de minimis eligibility, outputs are based on individual participants. Skills 4 Growth is contracted to deliver skills support to 1742 employed people working in Coventry and Warwickshire SMEs in the priority sectors listed above.

The project will support **1742** participants to achieve:-

- 259 Basic Skills qualifications (ESOL)
- 522 Level 2 qualifications or units of level 2 qualifications or below
- 336 Level 3 qualifications or units of qualifications or above
- 625 Females improving their labour market status (eg progressing from a zero hours contract or gaining a promotion)

Qualifications must be listed on the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications to be eligible.

There is also a focus on priority groups such as Minority Ethnic Groups, those with disabilities, over 50 year olds and lone parents and females gaining improved labour market status

Eligible Companies will receive support to identify their skills needs linked to the achievement of their business plan and growth and a learning plan will be developed. Eligible training that will address the skills needs identified will be sourced from one of our contracted delivery partners (listed below) or for niche provision will be procured.

Delivery Partners

Delivery partners include:-

- Midland Group Training Services (Delivery of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Management Skills at level 2 and below and level 3 and above)
- Coventry & Warwickshire Adult Education Service (examples of delivery Basic Skills - ESOL, Business, Leadership and Management, Health and Social Care, Accounting, I.T and Soft Skills at level 2 and below and level 3 and above)
- Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Training (examples of delivery, Leadership and Management, Health and Social Care, I.T, Accounting and Soft Skills at level 2 and below and level 3 and above)
- JBC Skills Training Ltd (Delivery of ICT Systems and Digital Skills at level 3 and above)
- Eurosource Solutions Ltd (examples of Delivery Business, Leadership & Management , Health and Social Care , ICT and Soft Skills at level 2 and below and level 3 and above)

A senior representative from each Delivery partner will sit on the operational group along with CCC, WCC and the LEP/Growth Hub. The Operational Group will monitor operational KPIs, address any referral or delivery issues, celebrate and publicise successes and share best practice.

Strategic Board members

Strategic board members for the project are:-

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| • Coventry City Council | • C&WLEP | • Federation of Small Business |
| • Warwickshire County Council | • Growth Hub | • Cov Uni Enterprises |
| • DWP (Employer & Partnership Manager) | • C&WAF | • C&W Chamber |
| | • JLR (Skills Programme Manager) | |

The Strategic Board provides guidance and strategic steer to ensure that project activities are effectively meeting the Call Specification and the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership ESIF Strategy in regard to developing skills that are in local demand to support and drive growth. The Strategic Board will receive information from the Operational Group on performance against profile, and pipeline.

Collaboration with other skills support to business

The Skills 4 Growth project responded to the ESIF open call covering Skills Support for the workforce. As you know, Serco were awarded the opt-in Skills Support for the workforce contract. We have been working with Jo O'Sullivan, Partnership Co-ordinator from Serco to ensure that the two programmes are linked.

Marketing and publicity

A marketing and communications plan has been developed for the project. Information is currently being developed that will go onto CCC website and partners websites. Electronic flyers will also be available shortly.

For further information contact Anne-Marie Tranter, Skills 4 Growth Co-ordinator on 02477 719782 or email anne-marie.tranter@coventry.gov.uk