

LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention



Invitation

1. LSIS is inviting bids from learning providers for project grants of £6000 for technology based improvement interventions. The grant is designed to support providers who identify a particular improvement need that can be tackled through the innovative use of technology and organisational development. This should enable organisations to use technology to achieve measurable and/or clearly identifiable benefits. The scheme aims to use sector expertise and best practice through mentoring, coupled with support from targeted LSIS Technology for Success programme activity.

2. Background

Since 2004, the leadership of e-learning programmes have been developed to stimulate and support managers and leaders in harnessing the potential of technology within the FE and Skills sector.

Recent impact reviews confirm that the programmes have been well received; they have inspired many and succeeded in developing a community of interested and like-minded managers across the full spectrum of providers (in work based learning; independent specialist colleges, offender learning, sixth form colleges as well as general FE) and from both within academic and vocational areas of organisations.

Having used our 'community' as a sounding board we recognise that the sector is in a time of change with reduced funding where there will be an even greater focus on doing 'more with less'. The need for efficient and effective technology based solutions will be enhanced by the new performance management regime by the SFA and the greater emphasis by Ofsted on the use of e-learning to support learning and the delivery of the curriculum. Within any organisation, technology can be seen as a cost, but it needs to be seen as an investment.

This grant based intervention will support managers and leaders in organisations at both strategic and operational levels in developing a focussed approach to maximising the potential benefits to the learner and the organisation arising from the effective use of technology.

3. The **LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention** is only open to organisations in England whose primary function is as a provider of further education and training. Eligible providers will be SFA/YPLA-funded organisations (excluding schools) subject to inspection by Ofsted. The only eligible Higher Education Institutions would be those with learning and skills provision funded by the SFA/YPLA. This aspect of their provision would also be subject to inspection by Ofsted. Consultancies or other bodies involved in supporting learning and skills providers, student representative bodies, schools and school sixth forms are not currently eligible. Non-FE organisations (including providers funded by BIS) may be part of a consortium which submits a bid, provided that the lead organisation is a recognised learning and skills provider, and that the outcomes from the project offer clear and sustainable benefits to other organisations within the learning and skills sector.

4. Providers should only submit one bid within the required timescales as detailed in this document.

5. How the Scheme Works

To qualify for the grant organisations are required to:

- Identify a particular area for improvement that can be tackled through the effective deployment of technology.
- Identify the change management that needs to take place to embed effective practice and show how this will be part of the organisational improvement strategy.
- Select a mentor from another organisation.
- Please provide a justification for your choice. If you would prefer LSIS can suggest someone from within the sector to work with you as your mentor. The role of the mentor is to support you in the implementation of the project and contribute a range of expertise and skills that you / your organisation would benefit from. The mentor would provide up to 10 support interventions, of which 3 should be face to face meetings.
- You will need to have undertaken a diagnostic or some form of research to justify why the improvement is needed before submitting your application. We would encourage providers to undertake a diagnostic using the generator tool <http://www.generatorfeandskills.com> or alternatively confirm a particular need as has been identified by a recent Ofsted inspection.

Applicants should then complete the application for grant funding. Once successful bidders have been confirmed in writing by LSIS you can then progress the project with support from your mentor and LSIS critical friend who will work with you to develop your project plan and offer support and guidance as required.

6. Successful bidders will be expected to :

- Attend a LIT project launch meeting on **17 October 2011**.
- Allocate £3,000 of your funding to pay for the mentor, which you are responsible for administrating.
- Prepare an action plan in line with guidelines supplied by LSIS.
- Manage the implementation of the action plan to achieve stated outcomes within the agreed deadlines.
- Attend one of the other Technology for Success programmes:
<http://www.lsis.org.uk/Services/ProgrammesServices/Pages/Leadership-of-Technology.aspx>
<http://www.lsis.org.uk/Services/ProgrammesServices/Pages/eleadership-maximising-impact.aspx>

This is mandatory to assist with the improvement journey of the organisation and to ensure that they are able to maximise on the impact of the intervention. As a change management process we want to arm the project team with the necessary leadership tools and strategies.

- Involve at least 4 members from your organisation in the LIT intervention and detail their input as part of the action plan.
 - Produce a brief interim report (4 sides of A4 on a template supplied by LSIS).
 - LSIS would encourage organisations to film or capture their learning journey as part of the project. LSIS will be creating a blog to capture the distance travelled across the LIT projects.
 - LSIS will expect providers to contribute to the Embracing Technology Conference February 2012 by contributing at work shops / exhibition area.
 - Produce a short case study outlining what was done and why it was effective and the impact / benefit achieved as part of the LIT project. This will be put on the Excellence Gateway.
7. Bids should be submitted on the accompanying application form by **12:00 midday on Monday 26 September 2011** to eleadership@lsis.org.uk

8. Successful projects will receive funding in the form of a grant. Half will be payable once the project has been approved. A further 50% will be paid on receipt of satisfactory project outputs:
- an action plan
 - attendance at one of the other Leadership of Technology programmes
 - a brief interim report (4 sides of A4 on a template supplied by LSIS)
 - a case study.

Projects should be completed by 5pm, Friday 27 July 2012.

9. Criteria for selecting bids

The following criteria will be applied in selecting bids:

- Demonstrates potential measurable improvements in an aspect of the organisation's operation.
- Has potential to secure significant improvements in sector practice or performance i.e. the anticipated learning from the project is transferable to other organisations across the sector.
- Demonstrates sustainable behaviour change within or across organisations.
- Promotes equality of opportunity.
- Clearly indicates any preparatory research establishing the need for the project.
- Clearly states the role of the mentor and the value that they will add by working with you.
- Sets out the main project activities, with clear dates and milestones.
- Provides clear measures for evidencing project success and distance travelled.

Review and reporting arrangements

10. A brief interim report (4 sides of A4 on a template supplied by LSIS) will be required at the halfway stage of the project and a final case study by the agreed end date. Details of the reporting required will be supplied to successful applicants.

Applications

11. In order to maximise the benefits across the sector, bids are limited to one per provider/consortia.

To apply for the **LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention** please complete, clearly and concisely, all the boxes on the accompanying form, to include a breakdown of the total cost of the project. Applications must not duplicate activities which are being funded from elsewhere, though may follow on from previous projects in which case they must clearly show how the benefits are being further developed or scaled. Please state if the project has previously received funding from LSIS or elsewhere, or has previously been submitted to LSIS for programme funding.

This should be e-mailed to leadership@lsis.org.uk titled "**LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention**".

12. We will inform all applicants by Friday 7th October 2011 as to whether their application has been successful.

13. If you are successful you will be expected to attend a LIT project launch meeting on **17 October 2011** when full details will be provided about the LIT project and LSIS expectations of providers. Please keep this date free.

If you have any questions, please contact the LSIS helpline on 024 7662 7953 or leadership@lsis.org.uk