

## **Developing social enterprise ambassadors**



### **Background**

LSIS is offering grants of up to £10,000 to learning and skills providers to develop a programme to identify and develop social enterprise ambassadors, and to cascade this learning to other providers by hosting delivery of the programme to a cohort of people drawn from the FE and skills sector.

There are already excellent examples of FE and skills providers and social enterprises working in partnership and with the drive to get 'more for less' and the shift towards communities 'doing it for themselves'. The values and principles that underpin this partnership work are relevant to the emerging policy agenda. This programme aims to build on these examples with an aim of promoting greater collaboration between learning and skills providers and the social enterprise sector through establishing social enterprise ambassadors within learning and skills provider organisations, and for the sector to learn from the sector.

### **Purpose of Social Enterprise Ambassadors programme**

- To raise awareness and understanding of social enterprise within the FE and skills sector
- To embed the idea of 'doing business differently' and the way that FE and skills providers can be more proactively involved with social enterprise
- To develop expertise on social enterprise within FE and skills providers and for the sector to learn from each other
- To allow the greatest opportunity for social enterprise to grow, inform, collaborate and trade within the FE and skills sector
- To ensure that a number of key individuals are able to act as ambassadors, equipped with knowledge and experience of social enterprise and able to signpost providers, colleagues and students to additional support and resources.

Social enterprise ambassadors would be the first point of contact within an organisation for staff and/or learners interested in social enterprises. They could also work with tutors to look at ways that the social enterprise theme could be embedded within the mainstream curriculum.

### **How does the scheme work?**

FE and skills providers will receive a grant to develop a programme of learning on the theme of social enterprise. The provider will then be expected to run the programme with potential social enterprise ambassadors within their own organisation, together with hosting delivery of the programme to a number of partner providers.

The programme should include the following themes, but ideally would go beyond:

- What is a social enterprise?
- Social enterprise legal structures and governance
- Case studies of social enterprise within the learning and skills sector
- Study visit to a live social enterprise
- Next steps – opportunities within your own organisations

## **Payment**

LSIS will provide a grant of up to £10,000 to each provider involved in the pilot. Fifty per cent of the funding would be paid upon confirmation of a successful proposal. The final fifty per cent would be paid upon receipt a 2-3 page project report by 30 March 2012. Further, resources developed during the course of the programme would be placed upon Excellence Gateway for learning and skills providers to access.

## **Eligibility**

Grants are offered to providers from the FE and Skills sector that are funded through the Skills Funding Agency and/or the Young People's Funding Agency. Providers should outline in their application how the project will benefit their own organisation and the wider community. Organisations submitting proposals should ideally have some experience of social enterprise, or a strategic objective to develop social enterprise principles within their organisation.

## **What do learning and skills providers need to do now?**

Learning and skills providers should complete the attached template and send it to [teresa.carroll@lsis.org.uk](mailto:teresa.carroll@lsis.org.uk) by 5 December 2011. A response outlining whether the project has been agreed will be sent from LSIS within five working days.