Fact sheet for Round 2 Development Partnerships

LONDON REGION:

Action for Carers and Employment Partnership – This Development Partnership worked to raise awareness of the barriers facing carers who want to work, and to test the mechanisms that can support them in combining work and care. It supported the mainstreaming of carers of working age, and the development of services which enable carers to work, with an emphasis on policy changes and reform.

Audio Visual Entrepreneurship – This Development Partnership explored innovative approaches to supporting individuals from groups currently under-represented in the audio visual industries (women, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, older people and young people from economically disadvantaged areas). The project helped develop the skills, knowledge and experience needed by target groups to form successful businesses, including self-employment, in the audio visual sector.

Celebrating Enterprise – This Development Partnership explored how community-based festivals and events can help individuals and small/medium enterprises find employment and develop as businesses. The DP also explored the potential for festivals and community events to play a greater role in economic empowerment. Their work has empowered individuals to use festivals and events as a platform to start up new enterprise, test business ideas, increase income or develop established micro enterprises.

Cutting IT - This Development Partnership developed and piloted innovative models and approaches to assist small businesses and their employees within the clothing and textile sector in East London, to adapt to the impact of changing market conditions and new technologies on business competitiveness.

Empowering Asylum Seekers to Integrate – This Development Partnership tackled discrimination in the labour market. The DP contributed to the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers by enabling them to acquire skills to prepare for employment once they received permission to work.

Equal Digital Repository – This Development Partnership created a website (repository) to disseminate the experience and products of all DPs. Each DP's products and outputs have been allocated a microsite providing an overview of its

work and links to all of its products. The repository has now been mainstreamed and is now known as ESF Works.

Equalitec – This Development Partnership worked towards a more equal representation and involvement of women in science, engineering and technology. It developed and tested a range of intervention tools to assist in the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in ITEC addressing, in particular, the needs of women at higher skills levels who had taken a career break or had experienced a period of unemployment and found the return to the workplace difficult.

Fresh Futures in Financial Services – This Development Partnership developed and tested models to enable Tower Hamlets residents gain access to employment in the financial services sector. In particular, the DP removed barriers to employment by working closely with employers to identify new approaches to mentoring, job coaching, and work placement opportunities for local residents in order to increase their self confidence, knowledge and understanding of the financial and business sector.

Inclusion – This Development Partnership assisted in the dissemination and mainstreaming process of the Equal Programme by supporting the work of DPs, Thematic Network Groups, and Equal Support Unit. It organised a number of events and workshops to help identify mainstream opportunities. The DP also produced a bi-monthly policy updates on all Equal themes.

Inclusion Through Media (ITM) – This Development Partnership demonstrated that participatory media work with excluded and disadvantaged people actively helps to combat social exclusion. It worked with a significant number of people from disadvantaged areas of the UK to produce over 70 films and videos as well as print, digital media and research products. Excluded individuals including disabled people were given the chance to make their voices heard, whilst enabling young people to access the media industry through ‘non-traditional’ routes.

London Workforce Futures Partnership – This Development Partnership established innovative models of support, based on the creation of new strategies to enable reintegration and retention of employees who suffer from physical or mental health problems as well as those at risk of drop out from the workforce due to physical or mental stress.

Minority Businesses Diaspora Interchange – This Development Partnership worked to exploit international connections across diaspora groups to increase the number of minority ethnic people going into self-employment, accelerate the growth of these businesses and increase their chances of success. The programme promoted: new enterprise and business support models; stronger links between mainstream agencies and minority communities; better understanding of the needs and priorities of entrepreneurs from minority communities.

Move on – This Development Partnership focussed on equipping people with the necessary baseline skills to cross the employability threshold or to advance themselves within existing employment. It designed and tested new learner routes and also established new modular qualifications.

North London Aspire – This Development Partnership promoted and provided improved support for Asylum Seekers in North London through positive approaches and disseminating best-practice and innovations about the target group. The DP helped to address key issues relating to prohibition from employment, poor or lack of English language skills, lack of orientation of UK labour market and other services, lack of basic employment skills, including basic skills motivation.

Professional Refugees into Employment through Support, Training, and On-line Learning (PRESTO). - This Development Partnership worked with refugee entrepreneurs, refugee women and refugees with disabilities. It tested and disseminated innovative approaches to training and employment packages to support and improve the employment prospects of refugee professionals specifically in the Health, Education and Engineering sectors.

Refugee Access into Sustainable Employment (RAISE). - This Development Partnership brought together organisations with different interests to work towards a common objective of pooling their skills and resources for the maximum benefit of assisting and sustaining refugees into employment.

Resettlement, Education, Support, Employment and Training (RESET). **-** This Development Partnership was formed to change and improve the resettlement process for young offenders. Through effective resettlement, RESET provided the appropriate support to young offenders especially after a custodial sentence, to help them engage in sustainable employment, training and educational activities.

Social Enterprise Coalition – This Development Partnership is the UK's body for social enterprise. It undertook a great deal of policy development drawing on the expertise of DPs in the social economy strand of the GB Equal programme. The primary areas that SEC concentrated on in terms of policy influencing were health and social care, public procurement and business support. Key achievements included: influencing the content of the Department of Health White Paper in spring 2006 based on findings from an Equal working group, the publication of a policy paper on business support and a consultation response on business support simplification which informed relevant sections of the Cabinet Office's Social Enterprise Action Plan (Oct 2006).

Supporting Inclusion in Enterprise Development – This Development Partnership was formed to further develop new innovative working structures and tools designed to overcome barriers to enterprise development throughout deprived communities in London with potential for use nationally. SIED works with

the REFLEX model designed to help community organisations support and advise businesses generated by members of their community. The Association of Community Based Business Advice (ACBBA) was created to ensure the long-term sustainability and development of the REFLEX model to complement existing mainstream enterprise support.

Strategic Vision for Entrepreneurship for London South Central (STRIVE). - This Development Partnership was formed as an active lobbying network to assist individuals. Through its lobbying activity STRIVE opened up business creation to those that were most excluded. The DP ensured that its range of services were available to residents and businesses but were particularly customised to make entrepreneurship more accessible.

Tackling Multiple Disadvantage in London by Improving Employability - This Development Partnership provided solutions which empower individuals to make informed choices and to develop activities relevant to the London labour market and designed to tackle known skills shortages. Partners worked to improve the timeliness and cost effectiveness of employment interventions for those resettled from or moving on from temporary accommodation in a city with severe housing shortages.

The Last Mile - This Development Partnership was set up as a multi-regional partnership designed to help people who have demonstrable motivation and aptitude in the creative industries take the final steps to employment or viable freelance careers. Partners worked with young people and adults from black minority ethnic groups (in Slough, Bristol, London, Manchester and Cumbria), to test and develop new qualifications, learning programmes, career routes and digital platform.

Thresholds – This Development Partnership tested informal methods of engagement of the socially excluded people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets labour market. The project demonstrated what does and does not work effectively in community based employment support.

Visage – This Development Partnership created a pilot programme of innovative methods, actions and interventions to assist the integration of blind and partially sighted people into the labour market, with a focus on facilitating progression from sheltered/supported employment to open employment.

What Makes the Difference – This Development Partnership influenced national policy working alongside local authority providers' local planning systems. It provided an effective model for working with 40 local authorities to improve the education, training and employment prospects of young people in and leaving care.

Equal Development Partnerships

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