**Traineeship Development Fund**

The Council is now looking to retender its Traineeship Development Fund contract for 2019/2020. We would like to invite interested organisations to register their interest by doing so via:

<https://www.the-chest.org.uk>

The unique reference for this project is DN424176.

Salford City Council (“the Council”) in 2017, published its first [Employment and Skills Strategy](https://www.partnersinsalford.org/media/1232/employment_skills_strategy_2017-20.pdf) outlining its vision for a world class labour market where all of the city’s residents have equal access to high quality skills training, sustainable employment and more opportunities for in-work progression. Included within the strategy were also a number of key priorities and objectives for supporting young people to achieve and progress in education and work. Since its publication the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Salford has continued to remain well above national and sub-regional averages, with little progress being made to increase participation and attainment in post-16 education and training. For this reason, we have felt it necessary to produce a comprehensive and detailed NEET Reduction Strategy that outlines and articulates the actions and approaches we will take to reduce NEET in Salford over the next two years.

In July 2017, the Learning and Work Institute published a report on 'Developing traineeships for young people not in education, employment or training' and alongside other programmes highlighted the Council's traineeship initiative as a national model of best practice.

We recognise that core Traineeship funding doesn’t always allow or enable providers to develop programmes that meet these principles and objectives and, in particular, work with young people who face more complex challenges and barriers to participation and engagement.

The Council have therefore introduced a Traineeship Development Fund to support local providers to further develop and deliver creative and innovative Traineeship programmes to support NEET young people in Salford, informed by existing delivery models of good practice within the city i.e. Salford Futures – MY Traineeship and Build Salford.

Programmes delivered under this contract must be targeted towards NEET young people who are Salford residents (or in the care of the local authority) and are aged 16 to 24 years old, or up to 25 years old with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Targets:

The Development Fund is expected to create a minimum of 43 new Traineeship opportunities for NEET young people in Salford. Providers can offer proposals to support a lower number of people on a pro rate funding basis. The total number of people supported across all programmes will be at least 43.

The provider will be required to demonstrate their track record in achieving similar Traineeship outcomes as outlined above, including evidence of achieving the required progressions e.g. 50% into paid employment on completion.

There will also be a requirement to demonstrate how the provider plans to work with employers to achieve the expected outcomes associated with the funding.

To support the provider with progressions into apprenticeships, we would expect all apprenticeship-ready young people to register with the aforementioned SSBAF Apprenticeship Recruitment Pool for ongoing support.

Location:

The programme will be classroom-based provision, including induction and post-programme activities (e.g. job search), must be delivered from a suitable venue in Salford that is accessible to all trainees, including those with physical disabilities.

The venue must be within close proximity to public transport routes and other relevant amenities (e.g. food outlets), have recreational facilities and IT access for all participants.

Duration:

Programmes supported by the development fund must start no later than April 2020. Providers are expected to consider employer recruitment patterns, the availability of placements and access to eligible young people when determining when to deliver their proposed programme(s).

Funding:

The total amount available for contracts commissioned through the Development Fund is £21,000. In order to ensure there is sufficient budget to support at least three programmes, the maximum funding available per programme is £7,000.

Deadline for Expressing interest in this opportunity is 18/08/19.