

Appendix 1 - Project summary

Purpose: To provide a skills recovery package of support that creates opportunities for people to re-enter the workforce quickly. The offer is scalable and builds on existing skills programmes and support by extending this to be an all-age adult offer that drives demand through locally branded services that signposts to national and local provision.

Below are two complementary elements of a package which could be mobilised:

- [Re]boot – to support people unemployed / at risk of redundancy to retrain with a line of sight to employment opportunities
- Employment Hub – to facilitate access to advice and support to enable individuals to access training and/or employment, particularly to new opportunities being created to support the COVID-19 recovery efforts

Objectives of the package:

- Build on existing successful models to create new retraining and skills offers that respond to the immediate challenge of Covid, with a focus on skills for the future.
- Driving demand and routing that demand to the right place, ensuring people receive comprehensive advice on the support (local and national) on offer.
- To provide immediate support/tiered support responding to anticipated demand when current national initiatives cease.

[Re]boot

Short/sharp training programmes for those recently unemployed or at risk of redundancy, focussed on priority sectors for employment growth including digital, green economy / construction, and health and social care. Development of the offer will involve employers so that the training responds to and supports their vacancy/skills needs.

Some of the current provision could be uplifted in the current provider contracts (depending on capacity, capability and performance) to respond to immediate demand.

Why?

- Supports newly unemployed to return to work quickly in key sectors with potentially more secure employment and opportunities for progression.
- Provides the opportunity for a more flexible approach to retraining that is not currently available but is valued by employers.
- Enables flexible, modular learning to add on to existing provision, where there is employer need but no existing provision.

Key Considerations

- **Timing:** Where existing commissions can be uplifted (currently delivered by Leeds Trinity University, WY Consortium of Colleges and Go Train), dependent on training provider capacity, this could be immediate.
- **Cost:** £6m including central project and contract management support.
- **Impact:** 4,500 unemployed people would be retrained into priority sectors

Enhancing and Promoting Employment Hubs

Increasing capacity of the Employment Hubs to provide a first point of contact for those of all ages recently unemployed. Facilitates access and advice to wide range of both local and national support, including the [re]boot retraining offer above. Reinforced by a high impact promotional campaign to ensure impacted individuals in all communities and from all backgrounds understand and access the support available to them.

Why?

- The support landscape is complex to navigate and requires a good understanding of individual need.
- Currently only 15-24 year olds have access to this model.
- Evidence that people do not access the available support (particularly national).

Key Considerations:

- **Timing:** Immediate, with promotion flexed as capacity increases. Particular focus on January 2021, when the Job Retention Scheme is reviewed.
- **Cost:** £7.5m over 2 years
- **Impact:** Supporting an additional 5,500 people into training and employment, (subject to jobs existing) with an initial focus on matching individuals to opportunities created to support the recovery.

Other : There is a need to work with and ensure further work takes place, in partnership with DWP local and NCS, for marketing and referrals and that this aligns with national messages and provision.