



Issue 2, August 2006

Welcome to EmployNet, Employ ULV's quarterly e-bulletin.

Each issue will include information on:

- Labour Market Information (LMI)
- Updates on contracts and funding opportunities
- Upcoming events
- Case studies
- News from various projects and programmes, and much more.

If you have any suggestions for articles, or would like to have your group or project featured, please feel free to contact the Employ team at **employulv@urbanfutures.org.uk**



LDA Opportunities Fund

August 2006: Round 2 of the LDA Opportunities Fund will be launched later this summer. The prospectus should be available later in August.

There were 766 applications in Round 1. This led to 93 recommended projects totalling £49,347,000 of grant funding. The evaluation of Round 1 has fed into the planning for the next application process.

The prospectus will be published by the end of August and the Round 2 bidding will be launched in September. Bidding is due to close end of November with applications being approved end of January.

Applicants will be notified in February and grants will be agreed ready for delivery to begin in April.

For more information on how the Round 1 money was allocated, feedback and information on the next round, download this LDA presentation, or visit the LDA website.

www.lda.gov.uk



Employ ULV Framework

July 2006: Urban Futures have commissioned SQW, Economic and Management Consultants to carry out an external evaluation of the Employ ULV Framework.

SQW are jointly evaluating Employ ULV and the ULV Business Umbrella, also funded through LDA Single Programme and managed by Urban Futures.

The reports will provide a review and evaluation of two of the key labour market intervention initiatives in the ULV sub region.

The evaluation will focus on an overall programme review, individual project assessments and will feed into the LDAs review of the ULV Single Programme intervention. This will help to develop the forward strategy for the future of the Employ ULV programme.

Network Forum members and Employ Projects may be contacted by the evaluators over the next few months as they will want to speak to Forum members, delivery project partners and some beneficiaries.

Thank you in advance of your cooperation.



The Skills for Economic Inclusion Network

July 2006: The Employ ULV Network Forum has developed links with The Skills for Economic Inclusion Network (SKEIN). This will offer some of the smaller VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) providers an opportunity to access additional support. SKEIN is a pan-London Network for small voluntary and community organisations providing training and support to those disadvantaged in the labour market.

The network enables small VCS organisations and training providers to stay up-to-date with what is happening on both a regional and a local basis. Whilst their conferences and newsletters help to develop a regional picture.

SKEIN offers assistance and information on organisational development, funding and staff training. Network members are able to access support through local learning hubs including conferences, workshops, training, newsletters, e-bulletins, a helpline and website.

SKEIN is currently running a series of funding workshops which are free to members and will cover areas such as successful fundraising, funding and the arts and principles of good bid writing. Training courses are run in central London and local locations throughout the year, complemented by travel and childcare assistance for participants.

The courses include topics such as:

- Developing Ability to Deliver
- Towards Quality
- Get Learning
- Promoting Learning Opportunities
- Strengthening Existing Provision
- Learning Coach
- Community Leadership Awards
- Guidance Awards'

If you would like to attend one of the workshops or become a SKEIN member please call Ian Foster on 020 7249 4441 or 0845 262 2006 or email ianf@lvstc.org.uk



Announcement: New advisory body to tackle ethnic minority unemployment

July 2006: DWP have launched a new independent body to help people from ethnic minority communities find work. The Ethnic Minority Advisory Group (EMAG), which is made up of 22 representatives from across the ethnic community, has been set up as part of the Government's welfare reform agenda to boost employment opportunities for ethnic minorities.

Statistics reveal that, although the employment rate in Great Britain is the highest of all the G8 countries at 75 percent,

ethnic minority employment is 15 per cent lower. The EMAG aims to narrow this gap and help get more people into the workplace.

Jim Murphy, the Minister for Employment and Chair of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, says,

"Although employment amongst ethnic minorities is rising, the Government is determined to do more to tackle poverty and

worklessness. This is being done through a number of successful initiatives which the EMAG will play an important role in contributing to."

"The new advisory group is a way of getting to the heart of the community and finding out the best ways to close the employment gap. To do this, we must work in partnership, focussing on what will work for local communities."



Announcement: New advisory body to tackle ethnic minority Unemployment..... continued

Iqbal Wahhab, Chair of EMAG says, "We will be lobbying for the Government to undertake a series of powerful and affirmative measures designed to target both public and private sector employment practices. Where we find these to be lacking in terms of ethnic minority representation, we will be calling for action to be taken against those organisations."

"Reducing unemployment levels among ethnic minorities is not just a question of fairness. These communities are more likely to live in poverty and as we have seen within Muslim areas, unemployment and deprivation can lead to anti-social behaviour. I believe that with a tough, concerted and committed approach, we can help close this gap."

In addition to offering guidance on existing policies, the EMAG will also provide advice on a series of measures being introduced as part of the welfare reform bill, including the new City Strategy. This will give local representatives of disadvantaged communities greater flexibility over funding designed to address worklessness.



Employ ULV Network Forum Seminar – Building Partnerships

June 2006: The last Employ ULV Network Forum event was held on 7th June at the Score, Community Building in Leyton.

The event focussed on developing effective pathways to employment by building partnerships and cross referral of beneficiaries between projects across the Upper Lea Valley.

The event provided members the opportunity to discuss and identify barriers to partnership working and solutions to overcoming some of these barriers.

Keynote speakers at the event included Max Weaver from **Community Links**, Julie Khan from **Urban Futures** and Sebastian Aillioaie of **MegaNexus**.

The event was attended by representatives from 48 organisations and received very positive feedback. Employ ULV are working with Network Forum members to take some of the suggestions forward and support the development of partnerships across the ULV.

Copies of all presentations and notes of the seminar are now available to download from the Employ ULV website <http://www.urbanfutures.org.uk/index.php/110/events-presentations-and-documents/>

The next Forum event is being planned for October.



New Disability Support Network

June 2006: The Disability Support Network was set up in January 2006. It is an Urban Futures, Employ ULV project, managed by John Grooms and working in partnership with Open Mind, Richmond Fellowship, MENCAP, and Whipps Cross NHS Hospital. The project also works with the London Boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest.

This unique initiative aims to facilitate networking between service providers, employers and disabled residents who are looking for employment. The project aims to support 50 disabled people into jobs.

Research by Open Mind Consultancy, who are responsible for developing the network across these boroughs, indicated that although healthy networks exist between providers and employers within an area, not much has been done in the past to link them across all three boroughs.

The aim of the network is to support both individuals and organisations by simplifying access to services.

In order to enhance provision, which supports disabled people seeking employment,

the project will engage with employers through organisations such as North London Limited and the North London Chamber of Commerce.

This 15-month programme will run until March 2007.

For further information about the Disability Support Network please contact Sue Temple on 020 8883 9453

sue@openmindconsultancy.co.uk

or Robin Pickard on

RPickard@johngrooms.org.uk.



Exciting developments for Construction Web

May 06: Construction Web and Urban Futures would like to welcome Russ Patrick, who joined the team as Construction Web manager in May this year. He is currently working with the team to develop and expand existing and new relationships with partners in the Upper Lea Valley and build on the current relationships with local authorities, who support them to deliver local labour/supply chain agreements.

Previously, Russ managed social regeneration programmes in north Kent and his experience includes

regeneration project work in Maidstone and 10-years experience with the London Borough of Lewisham.

With the projected employment figures for the construction industry expecting to increase by 2.8% annually in north London (against an expected 1.3% in Greater London), overall, north London requires the current construction workforce to expand by 17.6%. That translates to 4,306 new workers to meet demand in 2008.

There is therefore clearly a continuing need for Construction Web to develop its role as an intermediary between the local private sector and local contractors.

Without this relationship there is a clear risk of the benefits of construction contracts being lost to national and international competitors with the subsequent impact that this will have on local neighbourhoods and residents.



Exciting developments for Construction Web.... continued

Construction Web has secured successful partnerships with organisations such as Women in Construction, Construction Pathways for Refugees, and Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (WiNTO).

They are now seeking to work with local contractors who are looking for assistance in acquiring CSCS Health & Safety qualifications for their workforce, and for local contractors and suppliers who wish to expand their business.

Russ is keen build on these successes. "Construction Web enabled many individuals to enter the industry, particularly with regard to securing a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card allowing them to work on-site.

We have also been working with partners to look at ways to build training capacity as demand increases and is also focusing its efforts to encourage the construction industry to embrace NVOs and invest in professional training for their employees."

The Construction Web AGM will be held on 13th September 2006 at The Score, Leytonstone

If you would like to attend the AGM, or would like further information on Construction Web projects, contact

info@constructionweb.org.uk

or call 020 8352 5905.

www.constuctionweb.org.uk



Worklessness concerns addressed at NLSA workshop

May 2006: The North London Strategic Alliance (NLSA) held a workshop to discuss 'Worklessness in the ULV' on the 24th May 2006.

The event brought together key strategic players from north London boroughs and provided an insight into the disturbing and increasing levels of worklessness in north London.

The event provided a platform to stimulate debate on the issues, looking at the statistics, models of good practice in addressing the issues of worklessness and discussions about what is needed to ensure an effective programme to combat these issues.

Further information from the event is available on the Employ ULV events download pages.

<http://www.urbanfutures.org.uk/index.php/110/events-presentations-and-documents/>



PROJECT CASE STUDIES

Success stories for the Stansted Programme

June 2006: The following people have secured work at Stansted Airport following completion of the Stansted Pre Employment course:

Maharlikha Cena, from Hackney and Nagina Kauser from Stratford and Julie Gatrill all gained employment with Servisair as Passenger Service Agents.

Waqas Ahmed, from East Ham, has just been promoted to assistant manager of Dixons in retail part of the airport.

Susana Santos has returned to work after her first child to work in Stansted's World Duty Free shop.

Mark Meade secured a position as an Airport Security Guard.

For more information on the project click here.

<http://www.urbanfutures.org.uk/index.php/25/stansted-partnership/>



PROJECT CASE STUDIES

Life Skills and Employability Support for Lone Parents - Maria Sorce

June 2006: Maria, a Senior Nursery Officer and single parent from Enfield, was made redundant last December when the childcare centre she worked at was closed down.

The shock of the redundancy soon turned to a lack of confidence, affecting her both professionally and personally, so she enrolled on a course at Enfield College. It was here that she first learned about the Employ ULV Lone Parents project and contacted Pro-Diverse for assistance.

Having signed up with the programme, Maria's skills have improved further and her confidence soared even before she secured a new job.

Maria says, "Shamilla and the staff at Pro-Diverse were instrumental in my success of finding a new job. By improving my CV writing and communication skills and increasing my awareness of the child-care sector, I was able to fulfil my potential and felt ready to re-enter the job market.

Some skills can sometimes be taken for granted, such as understanding how current legislation affects our industry and children alike. I can only encourage other single parents not to give up hope when faced with similar issues. Support is out there."

Maria is now working as the Senior Nursery Officer at Garfield Children's Centre in Southgate.



PROJECT CASE STUDIES

BME Job Brokerage project

June 2006: The Deltaclub Group are the lead partner delivering the BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Job Brokerage Project, which aims to help unemployed people from BME communities get back into work.

Deltaclub offer a range of services including job searching, CV writing, basic skills and employability support to residents in the London boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest.

Kam Yat Chan, a recent beneficiary on the project, has successfully secured a job. He felt that he lacked practical knowledge on how to go about succeeding in the job market.

Kam says, " I was very pleased with their service and the facilities are great. The 'Job Club' allowed me to search for jobs using the internet, and gave me access to all the employment newspapers. The programme enhanced my self-discipline, people skills and gave me a greater awareness of the job market."

The project targets people from BME communities living in the most deprived areas of the ULV. Deltaclub's brokers engage with employers on a daily basis to identify job vacancies, assist employers with recruitment needs and help with the placement of candidates into suitable positions.

For further information please contact The Jobs Team on 020 8509 6464, or email zakia@deltacub.co.uk