**Provider Improvement Fund:**

**Tender Opportunity**

The Journey to Outstanding – Training for Liverpool City Region Learning Providers

UTN No 7

**Introduction**

**The Provider Improvement Fund**

Working in conjunction with the Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority and funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) through the Liverpool City Region Skills and Apprenticeship Hub project, GMLPF is managing the Provider Improvement Fund.

The Provider Improvement Fund has been designed to provide a comprehensive programme of training and development support to locally based learning providers operating in the post-16 learning sector. It has been designed to bring about a number of key improvements including:

* Improving the quality and delivery of learning programmes locally
* Supporting the growth and development of learning providers and their learning programmes
* Supporting the post-16 sector to adapt to change and become more responsive through training and development that builds their capacity and capability
* Increasing the proportion of LCR learning providers with an Ofsted Grade 2 or above

The Provider Improvement Fund will operate from June 2021 to September 2022 and will support improvements in the quality of delivery of learning programmes across the Liverpool City Region.

**Tender Opportunity – Background Information**

As part of the Provider Improvement Fund, Greater Merseyside Learning Providers’ Federation wishes to procure the following training and CPD for LCR learning providers

**The Journey to Outstanding – Training for Liverpool City Region Learning Providers**

GMLPF wishes to appoint a suitably experienced post-16 learning provider who has successfully secured or maintained an Outstanding Grade for its provision from Ofsted under the new Education Inspection Framework to deliver 2 half day “Journey to Outstanding” training sessions to Liverpool City Region based post-16 learning providers.

The Provider Improvement Fund has been established to help bring about quality improvements in the delivery of learning locally. The Provider Improvement Fund has also been established to capacity build the learning provider base and provide a strong legacy dimension to all the training it delivers, delivering training that will lead to improvements in the quality of learning and the experiences of learners.

One impact of the Provider Improvement Fund, we anticipate, is an increase in the proportion of local providers securing Grade 1 and 2 from Ofsted following inspections of their provision.

Although the Education Inspection Framework has been in place for 2 years now following its September 2019 launch many local providers have not been subject to inspection yet and thus have little practical experience of the new Framework. The Covid pandemic has also had an impact on the number of inspections taking place and has meant that for almost 15 months, there has been little Ofsted activity locally.

For a long time providers in the NW of England have lagged behind providers in other areas of England in terms of the proportion of providers achieving an Outstanding or Good Grade from Ofsted.

The new Education Inspection Framework is, for many providers, a paradigm shift in the way post 16 learning is delivered with its emphasis on the 3 “Is” of Intent, Implementation and Impact.

Against that backdrop, GMLPF through the Provider Improvement Fund wishes initially to procure 2 half day training sessions (to be delivered face to face, in a local, Covid secure setting to small groups of interested providers) from a post-16 learning provider who has been awarded an Outstanding grade to:

* Take providers through their journey to outstanding – what was their starting point and why they believe they secured Outstanding?
* Share their experience of inspection under the new Education Inspection Framework – how it differed from previous Inspection Frameworks
* What the emphasis on the 3 “Is” means in practical terms and how they supported staff to understand the concept of the deep dive
* Talk through the way they configure and deliver their curriculum and how they manage to respond to the needs of the local economy
* Highlight the challenges that they faced to move from their previous grade to Outstanding
* Discuss what, if any, workforce and cultural issues they faced and how they overcame them to put in place a culture and systems that supported outstanding delivery?
* Highlight what structural measures they put in place to ensure strong governance and leadership and management?
* The importance of the Self Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan
* Highlight what specific measures they put in place to achieve excellence across key learning programmes with a particular emphasis on Apprenticeships, Traineeships / Study Programme, Adult Education Budget and Adult Learner Loans
* Outline why they believed they were awarded an Outstanding grade by Ofsted and what makes their provision outstanding
* What they are doing to maintain that grade and maintain excellence
* Provide an opportunity for local LCR providers to ask questions about the supplier’s journey to excellence and share good practice
* Share any other knowledge and experience that they think is of value

**Opportunity to Tender – Specific Requirements**

GMLPF is looking to invite suitably experienced and qualified organisations to tender for the specific opportunity described below:

**The Journey to Outstanding – Training for Liverpool City Region Learning Providers**

**Requirements**

GMLPF is looking for an organisation to deliver 2 half day training sessions to local, Liverpool City Region based post-16 training providers that meet the following specification

* Volume: The delivery of 2 half day “Journey to Outstanding” training sessions to leaders, managers, governors and staff of local, Liverpool City Region based learning providers

It is anticipated that the training programmes will be delivered face to face or, should there be changes, remotely ie using Teams or Zoom by individuals who have a thorough knowledge of the EIF and who were closely and extensively engaged in supporting their learning provider to achieve an Outstanding grade. It is anticipated that each session will have some 20 attendees and will be delivered in a Covid compliant way (group sizes may be amended to reflect changing Covid circumstances)

It is anticipated that the training will take place on the same day with a morning and afternoon session.

* Focus: The delivery of a training programme that highlight’s a post-16 learning provider’s journey to outstanding, highlighting the key challenges and steps associated with securing an Outstanding Ofsted Grade under the new EIF. The programme is designed to inspire and tell a story of achievement.
* User defined: GMLPF will work with the chosen supplier to finalise the content of this training programme but is looking for potential suppliers to be innovative in their design and delivery of the programme and to incorporate a strong interactive dimension as experience suggests this benefits participants
* Delivery: We anticipate that the supplier will deliver the training on a face to face basis and will take place in late November or early December
* Content – detail on a potential model and what themes it might focus on are included overleaf. GMLPF would be keen to invite creative proposals that also demonstrate how Grade 1 Learning Providers, in their journey to Outstanding, have successfully adopted Equality of Opportunity and Social Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Green Skills and Digital Skills and Digital Inclusion into their learning offer and to understand how that may have supported their journey to Outstanding.

**Takeaway:**

It is anticipated that participants will be able to take away a resource pack with guidance, slides, notes and tips that they can then use to deliver training themselves.

**Possible Content**

GMLPF is looking to invite suitably experienced organisations to deliver a programme of support to LCR based learning providers that could involve the following elements:

**Pre course:** GMLPF anticipates that there will be pre-course activity prior to the training (which can be factored into the course costing) where GMLPF work with the chosen supplier to:

* Finalise the structure and content of the training programme and agree dates
* Agree a participant pack of support materials to take away

In designing the course or learning programme we are particularly keen to see how the supplier would incorporate the following into the design and subsequent delivery of the programme:

* Innovative elements
* Adopting approaches that support sustainable development
* Promoting equality of opportunity

**The Journey to Outstanding – Training for Liverpool City Region Learning Providers: We would wish to s**ecuring an input from 2 or 3 individuals from the organisation (leaders, curriculum leads and trainers) to provide an insight into the Journey to Outstanding.

Course content could include but is not restricted to:

* An introduction to their organisation; their provision, their culture and the challenges they thought they had to secure an Outstanding grade
* Provide an overview of their journey to outstanding – what was their starting point, the length of time and level of resources etc it took to secure an Outstanding grade
* Share their experience of inspection under the new Education Inspection Framework – why did Ofsted award them a Grade 1? What had they done that made their organisation stand out as an outstanding provider of post 16 learning provision and how they have successfully worked around the 3”Is”
* Highlight the challenges that they faced to move from their previous grade to Outstanding
* Discuss what, if any, workforce and cultural issues they faced and how they overcame them to put in place a culture and systems that supported outstanding delivery
* Highlight what structural measures they put in place to ensure strong governance and leadership and management
* Highlight what specific measures they put in place for key learning programmes with a particular emphasis on Apprenticeships, Traineeships / Study Programme, Adult Education Budget and Adult Learner Loans
* How the Outstanding supplier promotes and delivers added value
* An opportunity to share good practice and support dialogue and exchange of good practice with participants
* Take Away Tips – reflections on what it took to make the journey to outstanding and what key tips would they recommend to providers wishing to make a similar journey to outstanding

**Post course:** The training should result in driving change.

A post course questionnaire will need to be completed

**Costing**

It is anticipated that the budget for the 2 half day sessions, involving the development and delivery of the training by a team of 2 or 3 individuals with different experience and insights and completion of related ESF and SIF project paperwork, is £2,400 or £2000 plus £400 VAT at the prevailing rate of 20%

Room hire and associated catering costs for face to face learning can be met by GMLPF using approved facilities hire providers.

Organisations looking to tender should be aware that the programme is supported by ESF and SIF and will be required to capture and provide participant information ie learner enrolment forms, learner plans and timesheets, evaluation forms as part of the delivery of the programme. The provider will be expected to manage the collection of learner documentation and submit that along with a claim to be validated prior to payment.

**Sub-Contracting**

This project is ESF and SIF funded so suppliers are required to note that no further sub-contracting is permitted.

Suppliers are able to use Associates in the delivery of this project provided an associate contract or agreement is in place between the supplier and their associate(s). Suppliers are asked to reference this in their tender submission ie staff who will be used to deliver the training and will be asked to provider copies of associate contracts.

**Submission of Tender**

Suitable organisations are asked to tender for this opportunity. GMLPF would ask you to fully read this guidance document, the accompanying document on selection of tenders (assessment criteria) and use the tender response form to submit their proposal.

Suppliers should return their completed tender response:

To: Ian@gmlpf.net

By: Thursday 25th November at 5.00pm

With: **PIF Tender UTN 7 The Journey to Outstanding – Training for Liverpool City Region Learning Providers**