



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	European Social Fund update
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 26 June 2012
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<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The European Social Fund (ESF) Priority One measure provides financial support to promote training and other activities to assist long term unemployed people obtain sustainable employment. At present, Belfast City Council is a match funder of three ESF projects. These are Jobs on the Move (managed by Upper Springfield Development Trust); Jobs 4 u (managed by East Belfast Mission) and Learn to Earn (managed by Time Associates). The Council also manages the delivery of its own project – HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment).
1.2	ESF projects are of a three year duration and the match funding commitment for the projects must be confirmed on an annual basis. At the February 2012 Development Committee meeting, Members approved the match funding for 2012-2013 and requested that progress reports be provided on the match funded projects on a quarterly basis. This report provides information on the year-end figures for 2011-2012 as well as some updates on progress in the first quarter of the current financial year.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>HARTE</u> Between November 2011 and March 2012, five HARTE programmes were delivered (four in Belfast and one in Lisburn). These programmes have attracted 75 participants (against an annual target of 64 participants). Almost all of those starting the programme saw it through to completion (96%). Those who took part received a total of 464 Level 2 qualifications (against a target of 320). 27 participants have gained employment at the end of the programme (against a target of 24).

2.2	For those participants that have not yet found employment, ongoing mentoring is being provided to help them address skills challenges or to support them in their job search activities.
2.3	In order to showcase the work that they have been engaged in and the experience gained, HARTE participants are currently planning the delivery of a special employers event which will take place in Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter campus at the end of June. These participants are responsible for menu selection, food preparation and serving the meal at the event. Those in attendance will be key employers from the hospitality and retail sectors. The event will give the participants an opportunity to showcase the skills that they have developed and to enhance their prospects of finding employment.
2.4	In the period April to June 2012, four programmes will be run (three in Belfast and one in Lisburn). Unlike the previous programmes which have been delivered in conjunction with specific employers such as the MAC and Titanic Belfast, these programmes will not be directly linked to any specific employers. The programmes will take place in the Crescent Arts Centre, E3 (Springfield Road) and Sally Gardens. Programmes for the next quarter will take place at alternative venues, in order to ensure city-wide coverage.
2.5	On 16 May 2012, over 50 HARTE graduates attended a celebration event in Belfast City Hall to recognise and celebrate their achievements. The participants received their certificates from Councillor Guy Spence, member of the Development Committee.
2.6	Other ESF Projects <u>Jobs on the Move: Upper Springfield Development Trust</u>
2.7	Jobs on the Move provides a wide range of information, advice, guidance, referral and employer engagement services for job seekers in the greater West Belfast area.
2.8	The year-end figures (to March 2012) for USDT reported that they had engaged with 471 clients against a target of 300 and that 44 had obtained employment against a target of 30. The majority of jobs obtained for clients were in driving, security and similar non manual non professional occupations. The project also supported 242 clients to receive some job-related training, directed towards improving employability and personal development.
2.9	In the year 2012-2013, the project aims to have a caseload of 300 participants and to secure employment for at least 30 of those clients. All clients will be offered advice and guidance on job seeking and 70% will be supported into some form of training or personal development activities.
2.10	<u>Jobs 4 u: East Belfast Mission</u> The Jobs 4 u project provides a wide range of advice, information, guidance, training placements for job seekers in East Belfast.
2.11	The year-end figures for East Belfast Mission report that they engaged with 250 clients against a target of 150 and that 72 people obtained employment against an original target of 45.
2.12	The largest single type of employment gained was in warehouse jobs followed by sales and call centre work. The project also refers clients to other programmes

	such as HARTE and engages in a wide range of personal development activities such as Life Coaching and activity days. 88 participants gained some 188 accredited qualifications.
2.13	In the period 2012-2013, the target is to have a caseload of 175 participants with 25% obtaining employment and 20% to gain at least one qualification.
2.14	<u>Learn to Earn: Time Associates</u> Learn to Earn is a small scale ESF project that aims to provide intensive advice, training and support to a client base that is particularly disengaged from all other forms of assistance. There is a particular element of the programme to assist people consider self employment as a route out of economic inactivity. 25 people have taken part in the Learn to Earn project to date (against a target of 24). Of those who did take part, 10 have now moved into employment.
2.15	In the period 2012-2013, the programme aims to engage with 24 clients with a target of eight obtaining either employment or self employment. It is expected that participants will obtain an average of five Level 2 qualifications.
2.16	All projects will be submitting full progress reports for the period April to Members June at the start of July this year. This detailed information will be provided to in the September update report.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	No specific resource implications – match funding for financial year 2012/2013 approved at the February Development Committee.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations – all applications subject to equality impact assessment as part of the application process to Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the update on progress for the ESF match-funded projects.

<b>6</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
DEL	– Department for Employment and Learning
ESF	– European Social Fund
HARTE	– Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment
USDT	– Upper Springfield Development Trust

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.