

TENDER FOR RESEARCH

Title/Theme:	How engaging with third party organisations can expand capacity
Application:	Interested parties should submit an overview (via email) of how they propose the work will be carried out, with a timeline and budget
Budget:	Up to £5,000
Deadline:	23 rd June (Midnight) for tender proposals 31st July for research report
Contact:	Lucy Jenks l.jenks@sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk

The Sussex Learning Network (SLN) manages the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) across Sussex. NCOP funding targets disadvantaged students in Years 9 – 13 living in identified ward areas where progression into Higher Education is lower than expected based on GCSE attainment figures. The overall aim of NCOP is to close the gap and increase the number of learners, residing in these ward areas into higher education. The Sussex Learning Network: Collaborative Outreach Project (SLN:COP) is one of 29 successful consortia funded to support intensive outreach across the whole of Sussex and is a collaborative partnership consisting of: HE providers, schools, colleges, independent training providers and local authorities.

Through NCOP funding, the SLN consortium seeks to:

- Gain a better understanding of vulnerable groups and the barriers that they face in accessing, and remaining in higher level learning
- Provide a flexible and responsive offer, which can be tailored and offer a broad-range of activities dependent on learner need, and their families/carers/communities to enable progression into Level 4+ learning
- Offer a mixed methodology of delivery of outreach and study, with some taking place online, at school, in the community, at FE/HE, in a work environment
- Support attainment raising and skills development in young people to support and enable progression
- Provide access to funds to overcome practical barriers, such as transport and subsistence
- Develop sustained and progressive programmes which can reach out to young people and support their journey through education
- Monitor and evaluate what is meaningful and effective through impactful research

As SLN:COP prepares for Phase 2 (2019-2021) of the NCOP programme, it is commissioning several strategically targeted pieces of research which will be used to build on and develop areas of work which further support the partnership to more effectively meet the aims of the Programme. The SLN:COP is keen that in Phase 2 the network can be expanded upon to work more with third party organisations, including those who are web based and/or online, specifically but

not exclusively charities and social enterprise organisations, who are also supporting learners to engage and progress through education and who can, therefore further support the delivery of Programme during its lifecycle, and beyond.

Overview:

SLN:COP is seeking to commission research which will scope out and determine the effectiveness of third party organisations who are providing CEIAG and/or motivational and aspirational activities and/or related services, including web based and online provision, specifically within schools and Further Education Colleges (FECs). In the appendix we have included an example list of known organisations, but this is by no means exhaustive, and we expect the research to help us to expand greatly upon it.

Research aims:

- Review current SLN:COP third party organisations, including web based and online, and identify any gaps e.g. industry sectors, student voice
- Scope out and identify other third party organisations used by affiliated organisations, such as other NCOPS (see appendix), including open and/or free access resources
- Compare and contrast third party organisations, including web based and online, in the context of the Programme – how and why they are being used, and to what effect
- Make recommendations for how and why certain third party organisations, including web based and online, can be used to support the SLN:COP, including value for money and effectiveness.

Outcome:

- A report and presentation to the SLN:COP which provides clear recommendations for expanding the capacity of the SLN:COP through the use of specific third party organisations, including web based and online, paid for or open/free access.

Appendix

This is an example list of organisations who we know deliver CEIAG and motivational/aspirational programmes and initiatives with schools, colleges and other NCOPs.

Third party organisations, including web based and online:

Unifrog * Future
First* Career
Pilot Fast Tomato
Future Finder
Cambridge Occupational Analytics
Morrisby
The Young People Index I
Am a Scientist/Engineer
The Participation People
Performance in Education
Positively Mad
SATRO business mentoring
Speakers Trust
Young Enterprise Young
Minds: Wise Up

* SLN:COP currently buying into these services