

## Sussex Learning Network: Uni Connect Programme

### Emergency Learning at Home Educational Provider Fund

#### Guidance Note

#### Who can apply?

We have made this emergency funding available to schools, sixth form colleges, Further Education, training providers and universities<sup>1</sup>. The aim is to provide emergency equipment, resources and services to support the education, learning and provision of IAG to vulnerable and/or disadvantaged young people (and their families) in Sussex during the April to July 2020 period.

#### How much can we fund?

Up to £25,000<sup>2</sup> per project is available to help your organisation to be innovative in addressing 'learning at home' outreach needs during the pandemic. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis for projects taking place between April and July 2020. The fund will close at the end of July 2020, or when all resources have been committed.

#### What's this funding about?

The Sussex Learning Network is already supporting a range of lifelong learning and widening participation activities across schools and colleges. During the pandemic we are opening up our Uni Connect funding (previously known as the National Collaborative Outreach Programme)<sup>3</sup> to directly support disadvantaged and/or vulnerable young people and families in Sussex.

We are conscious that the pandemic might be further disadvantaging some of the young people and adults who remain the *least represented* in education. During the next few months, we want to help those families and young learners who are struggling to **maintain reasonable levels of learning**, which supports progression, at home.

The funding aims to help current learners stay motivated and resilient.

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<sup>1</sup> If you already receive funding from us please do consult with your Programme Manager prior to submitting an application.

<sup>2</sup> If your project requires a higher value of funding please do speak with your Programme Manager.

<sup>3</sup> Please see <https://www.ofsuniconnect.org/> for more information

## What can we fund?

The funding will support the purchasing of resources, equipment or delivery of a service to enable young people to access education, learning and IAG opportunities during this school and college closure period (no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020).

The sorts of activities we plan to fund include:

- **Well Being** - providing emotional, well-being and mental health outreach where there is a known gap (that cannot be filled by an existing service) and where outreach activities at this time might support future learning goals.
- **Digital devices** – where there is a known gap funding (that cannot be filled by an existing service OR fund) may be provided to support young people access learning digitally (internet access e.g. dongles, hardware\*, software)
- **Learning Materials** – stationery, books, IAG materials, assistive technologies, magazine subscriptions etc. to help young people or adults with their current or future studies.
- **Intergenerational Materials** – SLN is particularly interested in the role of intergenerational learning. Materials to support intergenerational e.g. grandparent to child, learning can be funded as part of this Emergency Fund. Learning may include personal skills to support lifelong learning; literacy and numeracy; core skills e.g. communication or vocational skills specific to an occupation or sector.
- **Access to online learning** – by this we mean online learning packages, including subscriptions

\*By hardware we mean, for example, laptops and/or tablets. Hardware will be procured by your organisation you will be responsible for ensuring all relevant e-safety filters and features as well as cyber- security (such as firewalls and antivirus software) are enabled before distributing them to the learners' home.

All purchased hardware will remain the property of the SLN and we may request it to be returned to us by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. This equipment loan can, however, be extended if it continues to be used for new SLN project being delivered during the academic year running 2020/21, subject to the approval of the SLN.

Unfortunately we cannot fund food, transport costs, statutory activities, contingency costs, fundraising activities or VAT you can reclaim.

## What makes a good application?

SLN particularly welcomes applications from educational providers that can support underrepresented groups. For us, this means:

- Young people and adults residing in our target wards (see Appendix 1)
- BAME groups
- Mature learners
- People with disabilities
- Care experienced
- Young carers
- Young people estranged from their families
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- Refugees
- Children of military families

We will assess all applications against the following criteria:

- 1) The extent to which the pandemic is impacting on your learners and, in particular, their ability to continue their own learning or plan for their future learning
- 2) The clarity you provide regarding how your activities will positively impact on the learners
- 3) The extent to which your infrastructure allows you to safely deploy resources and deliver the activities.

## What else are we looking for?

The following statements seek to describe the long-term impact we intend for our Emergency Learning at Home School Fund:

- 1) To build sustainable relationships with existing and new educational providers in Sussex that can deliver creative and innovative learning at home opportunities to young people
- 2) That the activities we support lead to an improved understanding of the support young people require to move them closer to a range of educational opportunities, including learning at a Higher Level.

## What else do you need to be aware of?

These Emergency Funds are targeted at school and college learners during the pandemic and associated lockdown. As such your project activities must be designed for support to take place in the homes of the participants. If you are planning on providing support digitally you must know if the household have digital access or your project can include getting digital access for households.

Anything that needs to be delivered to a young person or their family must be arranged to be delivered directly to the family home. We will not fund items that young people or their families need to leave their homes to collect. You must demonstrate how you will ensure your school or college is able to ensure door to door delivery is possible.

In the application form we invite you to tell us about any community organisations you currently work with. SLN is developing an Outreach Hub, so it's useful for us to know where synergies may be possible.

## Monitoring impact

Educational providers will be expected to report back on the impact of accessing these Emergency Learning at Home Outreach funds. SLN is particularly interested in sharing learning of how your project activities supported resilience in learners of all ages.

A SLN Uni Connect Programme Manager will contact you to agree how your project insights can be best shared, what the challenges have been and what future support might be relevant. The information sourced will be used to create blog posts and other communication materials as well as shape future funding rounds.

## How do I submit my application?

Before completing an application please speak with us about your project and eligibility:

Schools and Sixth Form Colleges

Fay Lofty  
07976 781 554

Further Education Colleges and Independent Training Providers

Lucy Jenks  
07976 781535

Universities and all other providers

Sarah Williams  
07814 141503

All final applications are to be emailed to [admin@sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk)

## What will happen when?

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|---|------------------------------|
| 1) Fund launched                              | 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020  |
| 2) Decision making panel                      | 2 working days from receipt  |
| 3) Grant offer sent within                    | 2 working days from decision |
| 4) Activities completed                       | 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2020   |
| 5) Evidence of spend and activities submitted | 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020 |

Further information about us can be found at [www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk](http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk)