

Pendle UKSPF Project Selection report

Investment theme: People & Skills

Year 3 – 2024 to 2025

E33: Available project funds allocation	£412,945
E34: Available project funds allocation	£158,215
E35: Available project funds allocation	£48,391

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Intervention E33

Purpose: Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.

Description: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps. This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support

Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).

*via Multiply.

Objective:

Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.

Examples:

- Personalised and intensive support delivered through keyworkers, including referrals to relevant local training, skills and specialised support
- Areas investing in the keyworker function may also procure additional services, offering life skills and basic skills support, where there are gaps in local provision
- Basic skills delivered in alternative or novel settings. Maths and English up to Level 1, ESOL courses and essential digital skills
- Supported employment provision and placements for individuals with health and disability needs, including person-centred vocational profiling
- Support groups for people with similar health barriers to share personal experiences, coping strategies, or information about their conditions
- Counselling and advice services, including tailored work-focused mental health support, to help individuals with coping strategies and support plans for transition into work
- Financial support to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications, debt advice to help manage money, housing support, financial support for clothes or travel, and childcare support
- Enrichment activities for the socially isolated delivered in community centres such as sports, arts and other interactive activities. Volunteering and work experience opportunities to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing

- Referrals to services that offer a holistic approach to substance misuse treatment
- Specialist outreach for housing or those with criminal backgrounds
- Person-centred emotional, practical or financial support for carers, and advice on how to balance caring and work responsibilities, or support around health and wellbeing

Levelling Up Missions:

Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 8: By 2030, wellbeing will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Intervention E34:

Purpose: Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills

Description: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.

Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. **where not being met through Department for Work and Pensions provision.

Objective:

Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.

Examples:

None

Levelling Up Missions:

Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing

Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas

Intervention E35

Purpose: Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills

Description: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing

Objective:

Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.

Examples:

None

Levelling Up Missions:

Mission 8: By 2030, wellbeing will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Background: People & Skills

It was the original design of the UKSPF programme that funding for People & Skills should not be allocated prior to Year 3 of the programme unless projects were 'at risk' of their existing ESIF funding expiring prior to the commencement of Year 3. If a local authority wished to continue a People & Skills project identified as at risk prior to Year 3, it had to be named in the Investment Plan and agreed by government.¹

Pendle Council did identify such a project and included this within its UKSPF Investment Plan as a project to continue to be supported.

The project is Step Change although this title may become Move On.

It is actually three European funded projects which will amalgamate into one single project.

- More Positive Together, delivered by Active Lancashire
- More Positive Together Steps, delivered by Active Lancashire
- Building Better Opportunities, delivered by Selnet

The new combined Step Change project was put forwards to Pendle Council as one of the pan-Lancashire offerings during the planning stages for UKSPF.

These projects have already been delivering across Lancashire but their European funding is now expiring or has recently expired.

Pendle's Investment Plan allocated a portion of funding within the E33 Intervention, in Year 2 (2023/24) specifically for this project. This action, along with the agreement of this by the Local Partnership Group and the subsequent ratification of the LPGs selection decision has confirmed this as a project for Pendle to support, within its UKSPF programme, with funds from 2023/24.

2023/24 Year 2 UKSPF	Available spend within Intervention
Step Change	£ 52,413.12

¹ Government have since announced that authorities can now allocate People and Skills funding prior to Year 3 but authorities, including Pendle, now already have Investment Plans established and funds already committed to projects elsewhere in the programme.

Process for Shortlisting projects

In order to identify other projects which could deliver alongside Step Change in Year 3 of UKSPF, the proposals put forward for consideration previously as part of Pendle's UKSPF planning to identify projects to fund, were returned to for review.

Under the planning process, a competitive grant round was undertaken in which organisations submitted proposals and then applications to the council for consideration for UKSPF funding. These submissions formed a closed pool of applicants which was narrowed down based on best fit to the programme. Primarily whether a project fit the requirements of the Intervention being considered against ability to meet the required outputs and outcomes, ability to fit the spend profile, either on its own or in combination with other suitable providers and considerations including value for money and whether a project was advanced enough to meet the required timescales for the programme.

A key consideration when selecting projects for the earlier Community & Place theme and Supporting Local Business theme was whether a project was ready to commence and deliver, owing to the extremely short timescales remaining in the first year of the programme.

A similar consideration is required in the selection of Year 3 projects (2024/25) in that the timescales available to a delivery partner will be short. Aside from the allowance of Step Change to commence in Year 2 (2023/24), the remainder of the funding for People & Skills will all take place in the final year of the programme. As such successful delivery is required in a single year. Sufficient existing experience is therefore essential for success. There is little time for lead-in time, providers must have the ability to hit the ground running.

As part of the shortlisting process organisations were given the opportunity to self-identify which Interventions they thought their project best matched. This resulted in some organisations ticking to be considered for both community and place, as well as people and skills, and it is evident upon review that many of the submissions would not in actual fact be suitable.

There are a number of individual reasons for this including unsuitability to the needs of the Intervention, inexperience of the provider in the services required to be delivered, unsuitability to the budget profile, risk of duplication of services and risk of not being able to deliver the required outcomes and outputs.

These submissions were reviewed by the Pendle UKSPF Lead alongside the Lancashire Skills Hub (who are members of our Local Partnership Group), as well as Pendle Council's Principal Localities, Communities & Policy Officer and the resulting decisions confirmed by the Head of Place.

This leaves two suitable projects remaining who are able to deliver against, and who have asked to be considered for, Interventions E33, E34 and E35.

The two projects remaining and recommended for selection are:

- A continuation of the Active Lancashire with Selnet, Step Change programme, into Year 3.
- Newground Together – Greener Together Pendle (People & Skills strand)

About the providers

Newground Together

Newground Together is the charity arm of Together Housing. The largest housing association in Pendle. This Provider has already been selected for funding under the PBC UKSPF programme to deliver a project called Greener Together Pendle.

The provider is highly competent and the UKSPF Lead has found them to be one of the most organised and reliable of all the organisations being worked with as part of the UKSPF programme.

It was the intention of the Provider from the outset that Greener Together Pendle would be allocated funding from the Community and Place volunteering intervention (E9) and the energy reduction intervention with residents (E13) alongside funding from the People & Skills theme. The allocation of further funding would therefore complete the original intention for the project, allowing it to deliver to its full potential. Selection of this would also be complimentary to the PBC UKSPF Investment Plan as it delivers across multiple aspects of the plan in a coherent fashion.

Active Lancashire

Active Lancashire operate across the county delivering on a range of employment related and physical activity programmes. They are a strategic lead for Sport and Physical Activity in Lancashire, backed by the county council, their work seeks to tackle inequalities and drive social change. They are one of 43 'Active' Partnerships across England.

Their partner in the project is Selnet (Social Enterprise Lancashire Network) who are an active delivery organisation of European and lottery funding to tackle inequalities. Like Active Lancashire they support local organisations who deliver the support on their behalf.

Active Lancashire will act as the Lead Partner for the overall project and will carry out a programme management function of the project and for its partners.

The delivery of Step Change in Year 2 of UKSPF is against the E33 Intervention only and allows Selnet to continue the work of the Building Better Opportunities project.

Confirmation to continue to support Step Change into Year 3 would require allocation of funds not only from E33 but from E34 and E35 also. Active Lancashire would commence delivery of the other half of the intended project in Year 3 as UKSPF funding takes over from the remaining expiration of European funding.

Suitability and benefits

The suitability and benefits of these two providers are that;

Each brings considerable experience of the services which need to be delivered - given Year 3 is for one year only, we require projects which can hit the ground running. There will be little time for lead-in.

Newground can do this as they already deliver these services elsewhere and would simply transport the project to Pendle. They already have employment advisors who work in Together Housing and work with tenants, including in Pendle, to support their employability so they have many years experience in this type of support. They undertake such support because, as well as being a responsible Housing Association, it is to their benefit as a landlord if tenants have an income with which to pay the rent.

Active Lancashire are in an advantageous position as the support to be delivered under their project has been established for a number of years via European funding, and can be considered to have begun a phased commencement already in Year 2 of the programme for which they were selected as part of the Pendle UKSPF Investment Plan. Confirmation to continue with this project into Year 3 and expand selection for delivery beyond E33 would expand its delivery remit in a capacity which it has the expertise and experience to do.

Both Providers are known to, and come with the recommendation of the Lancashire Skills Hub, who value their work in the area of skills support.

Active Lancashire are the organisation who deliver the Pendle YES Hub on behalf of Pendle Council. This is an entirely separate project but the Localities and Communities team have been pleased with their work and recommend them as a Provider of support.

Project descriptions

Step Change (Active Lancashire)

Description given by the Provider

Step Change combines and continues the valuable and impactful work that our local delivery partners have delivered over the last six years through ESIF projects.

We will deliver an intensive Key worker support project, focused on people at the first step of the Lancashire skills escalator, engaging people with multiple, complex needs.

Our partnership brings together specific expertise in supporting disadvantaged people to move towards economic activity based on their specific needs, being tailored to the level and length of support they need to achieve a result.

Step change will offer a holistic service by promoting service integration, preventative action, and community empowerment and capacity building.

Challenges Step Change will address:

- Economic inactivity (young people and older adults)
- Tackling the root causes of poverty
- Long term and generational unemployment
- Exclusion for the most socially excluded residents with multiple and complex needs

Greener Together Pendle (Newground Together)

Description given by the Provider

The project responds to an existing gap in provision under the Community and Place, and People & Skills priorities at a local, neighbourhood level:

- Engaging residents in positive activities in their communities
- Utilisation of open spaces as a focal point for providing opportunities for social interaction, increased physical activity levels leading to improvements in mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Encourage uptake of household energy efficiency measures, reduce waste, support to reduce fuel poverty & household expenditure resulting in a reduced cost of living at a household level.
- Ensuring residents engaging in community-based programmes have a route to further skills, training and employment support with strong links to existing ESIF provision in the short term and UKSPF provision from April 2024.

The project will deliver Community & Place activities in a 3 year programme supporting both interventions E9 and E13², and in year 3 will commence employment & skills support post-ESF funded provision. Together, the activities will encourage healthier living, support net-zero principles, bolster skills and engagement, tackle barriers residents face (health being a major one), support residents to become more energy efficient and increase resilience to the spiralling cost of living, and support people to access work-related training, work experience and secure work.

During years 1 & 2 of UKSPF, residents accessing E9 & E13 interventions wishing to engage with skills, training and employment support will be referred to Newground's employment team, delivering ESIF provision in Pendle. From April 2024 residents will transition to the UKSPF provision support under E33, E34 and E35.

E9 – Active Engagement

The 'E9' project will provide 'active engagement' opportunities for residents in the borough to take part in activities utilising the natural environment to improve the physical, social and mental well-being of participants; supporting positive intra-community engagement, developing resilience, social capital, life skills and transferable skills, and providing volunteering opportunities.

Delivered through collaboration with existing local third sector organisations and community groups, this element of the project will enhance community infrastructure and local green space and support capacity building of community-led organisations and groups.

Specifically, the project will:

- Engage residents in positive activities within their communities
- Encouraging the use of open spaces as a focal point for providing opportunities for social interaction, increasing physical activity levels and positive mental health and emotional wellbeing

² This has already, previously, been selected.

- Be delivered alongside existing community groups to enhance their offer
- Support interested residents to form a new group
- Provide capital funding for essential equipment to enhance community green spaces and encourage community use

E13: Energy Reduction, Cost of Living & Sustainability

The 'E13' element of the project aims to support residents to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change, and support residents to live more sustainably. Show casing the practical application of new net-zero technologies through Together Housing's planned carbon reduction works in key communities across Pendle, will create a focal point to engage residents, provide community learning opportunities and support development of digital resources to promote across the Borough. The project will have two key priorities:

1. Improve the green life skills of people in Pendle so they have the knowledge, ability, values, and commitment needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society. Activities will include:
 - Reduce, Reuse, recycle green skills sessions
 - Practical green cleaning skills for home (& work)
 - Create digital and engaging carbon literacy resources
 - Show case the practical application of new 'green' technologies for the home; building resident confidence in the technologies, demonstrating energy savings benefits and ultimately encourage take up of energy efficiency measures.
2. Practical support to residents to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty. Activities will include:
 - 121 support for vulnerable households to provide advice on reducing energy consumption through simple techniques and understanding tech: SMART Meters etc.
 - Support on household budgeting, reducing waste, benefits advice, financial support & advice.
 - Advice on simple home improvements to combat fuel poverty & increase energy efficiency

E33, E34 & E35: People & Skills Priority

Activities in the People & Skills priority will support interventions E33, E34 and E35 but will focus primarily on E33. The integrated service offer will dovetail with the E9 & E13 projects through which residents will be offered the opportunity to transition into tailored employment and skills focussed support in order to maximise outcomes for residents accessing Newground's project, who will be supported to move closer to the labour market/secure work for the long term benefits of financial sustainability and positive health & wellbeing.

The project recognises that every participant is unique, with different starting points, goals and aspirations, and barriers to be overcome in order to make positive steps

forward. Therefore, the integrated service offer will comprise of 121 wrap around support with learning and skills development embedded in all aspects of the programme, and activities designed to increase motivation and social contact whilst developing skills for life and work, for example:

- Group activities where people can meet, learn a new skill, meet new people and promote positive health and wellbeing. Examples include young mums walking groups, BAME ladies growing, harvesting and cooking groups
- Like skills learning opportunities including paediatric first aid for parents, boosting confidence and self esteem, managing household finances
- Accredited vocational qualifications for flexible working hours opportunities. Examples include working in education and health and social care for (single) parents
- Work experience opportunities – blended with related vocational qualifications eg Lantra (land-based qualifications for 'green' jobs)
- Employability courses and job clubs for those interested in finding work

121 Wrap Around Support

The person-centred approach puts participants at the heart of provision. The core mentoring offer will provide advice and guidance support to identify and work towards employment, health and wellbeing goals. Action planning will identify individual needs & aspirations, and set goals, supporting participants to:

- Identify positive attributes and skills
- Identify their key barriers to progression
- Overcome barriers – perceived or real
- Increase their self-awareness
- Make more positive lifestyle choices
- Engage with mainstream support services
- Identify and work towards employment, health and wellbeing goals

The resulting action plan will provide a range of support to:

- Access basic skills support
- Build financial resilience – benefits advice, managing personal finances, benefits of being in work,
- Develop employability skills
- Address issues around home & family life (including childcare) & social health
- Access basic skills and other training needs
- Address health and disabilities as a barrier to work
- Improve health & wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem

Learning and Skills Development

Learning and skill development runs throughout the range of activities in the programme. Newground is an accredited training organisation and will provide a range of entry level vocational/basic skills qualifications in addition to personal development style courses such confidence building, household budgeting and workplace/employability skills. Work placement and volunteering opportunities will also enhance vocational learning by providing real-life work experience.

The People & Skills element of our project proposal builds on our extensive experience of delivering employment and skills programmes targeting people furthest away from the labour market, including those who are economically inactive, by:

- utilising the natural environment to improve the physical, social and mental well-being of residents and volunteers through our 'Great Outdoors' team (delivering E9 intervention)
- offering additional employment & skills-related support to residents accessing our E13 intervention as a long term progression to financial sustainability & health & wellbeing.

Historically, we have successfully joined these interventions together to support employment programme participants experiencing mental health challenges, social isolation, & low confidence & self-esteem, successfully supporting customers to overcome these barriers and progress towards their long term goals, including sustained employment.

Delivering these Community & Place and People & Skills interventions side by side offers significant benefits. With activities being mutually reinforcing, residents will be able to access all provisions simultaneously and/or transition between them depending on their needs, preferences and progression. Examples include:

- Using outdoor activities such as food growing to provide climate change education and identify needs for energy advice,
- Signposting residents experiencing fuel poverty to volunteering opportunities to enhance their health & wellbeing and
- Encouraging residents seeking support to reduce energy and manage their household expenses through the cost of living crisis to engage in developing their skills for work and access the labour market as a long term route to financial sustainability and health & wellbeing.

Likewise, the projects will not be delivered in isolation of other services offered across the Borough and referring into/receiving referrals from organisations offering complementary services will be critical in ensuring residents receive the best support/opportunities possible. For example, referrals to/from food banks, employment support, training providers, specialist health support etc will be integral to maximising the impact of this project.

Spend Profile – People & Skills, Year 3; E33, E34, E35

	2024/25	Funding Request	
	Available UKSPF Funds for spend by Projects*	Active Lancashire – Step Change	Newground Together – Greener Together Pendle
E33			
Year 3 Revenue £	412,945	274,013.89	138,931.07
Percentage of funds %	100%	66.4%	33.6%
E34			
Year 3 Revenue £	158,215	113,539.44	44,675.28
Percentage of funds %	100%	71.8%	28.2%
E35			
Year 3 Revenue £	48,391	33,115.67	15,275.05
Percentage of funds %	100%	68.4%	31.6%

*This is different to the funding allocated in the Investment Plan. 'available spend' is after Management & Admin allowance has been deducted for the purpose of the council's management of the programme.

Meeting of Outputs and Outcomes

Across both projects being considered, together they are able to meet the whole outputs and outcomes required.

The only exception to this is a single outcome in E33 regarding Number of People with Basic Skills. For reference an outcome is the desired result of an Output (an action). Primarily it is more important that outputs are achieved.

The outcome in question is only projected to be slightly off target and this should not have any consequential impact to the programme.

Lancashire County Council are delivering the Multiply aspect of the UKSPF programme whereby adults are engaged to boost numeracy levels. These providers will be asked to work alongside LCC Multiply in order to boost their ability of meeting this outcome.

E33	<u>Outputs</u> Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services (numerical value)	<u>Output</u> Number of people supported to access basic skills (numerical value)	<u>Output</u> Number of people supported to engage in job-searching (numerical value)	<u>Outcomes</u> Number of people engaged in job-searching following support (numerical value)	<u>Outcome</u> Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) (numerical value)
Investment Plan	225	90	90	33	41
AL – MoveOn When supported in Y2 & 3	182	74	74	26	25
NT – Greener Together Pendle	95	38	38	14	17
TOTAL	253	102	102	37	39

E34	<u>Outputs</u> Number of people supported to engage in life skills (numerical value)	<u>Outcome</u> Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) (numerical value)
Investment Plan	25	11
AL - MoveOn	21	9
NT – Greener Together Pendle	9	4
TOTAL	30	13

E35	<u>Output</u> Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	<u>Outcome</u> Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision (numerical value)
Investment Plan	15	6
AL - MoveOn	12	5
NT – Greener Together Pendle	6	3
TOTAL	18	8

Value for money

Pendle Council has a duty to consider value for money in the allocation of UKSPF funding. Value for money has been considered, first in the undertaking of a competitive grant round where multiple providers were given the opportunity to put costed projects forward which would be suitable to our programme. This resulted in the two projects in question.

Value for money has been considered again in an analysis of these projects ability to deliver outputs and outcomes as a proportion of the available funding.

It is considered that both projects represent value for money. Of the total available funds within E33, E34 and E35 against the ability to meet outputs and outcomes for those funds, Newground Together does come in slightly better in value for money with a higher percentage projection of outputs and outcomes for the money, as opposed to Active Lancashire where we have a slightly lower percentage of outputs and outcomes for the money. But both are within a couple of percentage points difference either way. The difference is negligible.

Newground Together are able to operate their project with the lower level of funds as an addition to their existing project, whereas where we to swap these projects round for value for money sake, the Active Lancashire project becomes financially compromised due to the step down in resources it would need implement and could become unfeasible for the Provider were it asked to operate on the level of funding being considered for Newground.

	Funding request as a percentage of Total available funds within E33, E34, E35	Percentage of Outputs and Outcomes able to be achieved E33, E34, E35
Active Lancashire	67.9%	65.4%
Newground Together	32.1%	34.6%

Consideration of allocating further funding to Newground Together within the UKSPF programme

The selection of Newground Together would allocate further UKSPF to this organisation, providing them with a high allocation of funding from Pendle Council over the three years of the UKSPF programme.

However this should be looked at in context with Pendle funds allocated to Active Lancashire. The total funding amount being proposed to Newground Together within Pendle UKSPF would still be less than the total amount of funding to Active Lancashire when the YES Hub is taken into account, which is funded through the Nelson Town Deal.

Newground Together Pendle UKSPF	£
UKSPF E9 <i>already confirmed</i>	180,981
UKSAPF E13 <i>already confirmed</i>	292,082
Proposed UKSPF E33, E34, E35	198,881
TOTAL	671,944

Active Lancashire	£
UKSPF E33 <i>already selected</i> (Year 2 - 2023/24)	52,413
Proposed UKSPF funding for Year 3; E33, E34, E35	420,669.00
Nelson Town Deal funding to deliver YES Hub	420,000
TOTAL	£893,082

Conclusion

Overall we have considered; the ability to deliver the required services and achieve outputs and outcomes, the ability to deliver within the timeframe available and value for money. Overall the balance of projects is considered to be a good one.

The case for projects

Active Lancashire	Newground Together
Relation to the Investment Plan	
Named within the Investment Plan as a project at risk to support	Selected as a project to be supported following submission of the Investment Plan. Selection of this project would compliment the Investment Plan by delivering across multiple aspects of it.
Meets the spend profiles	
Has made a request at approx. 70% of available spending in order to safeguard the level of jobs involved.	Is able to be flexible upwards but does not wish to take on the totality of the funding for these three Interventions.
Sustaining the funding will mean a similar number of pendle providers can continue to be supported	We do therefore need at least two projects. The two being considered appear to be a good balance.
Has only limited ability to be flexible within the spend.	
Matching outputs and outcomes	
	See comment to the left

Between them both can meet all outputs and outcomes. With the exception, very slightly, of one outcome. They may be able to receive assistance from LCC Multiply on this.	
Credibility as a delivery partner	
Excellent. They have a lot of experience of delivering externally funded programmes and managing schemes like the one proposed.	Excellent. They have a lot of experience of delivering externally funded programmes and managing schemes like the one proposed. They have been a reliable and credible partner on UKSPF already.
Match funding (value for money)	
DLUC encourages local authorities to consider match funding for projects. Active Lancashire do not bring match funding. They are only able to undertake delivery if funded. Match funding is not mandatory for UKSPF. More important is that the funds are used to deliver strong services for the borough.	Brings a level of match funding to the project.
Delivering in other interventions	
Yes. Has an ability to complement the investment plan by delivering across multiple People and Skills Interventions	Yes. Has an ability to complement the investment plan by delivering across multiple Interventions of the Investment Plan
Inclusivity	
Yes. Both will be open to any resident of Pendle who meets the criteria for support. Not restricted to geography of borough or demographics.	Yes. Both will be open to any resident of Pendle who meets the criteria for support. Not restricted to geography of borough or demographics.
Is this an existing funded programme seeking UKSPF as replacement funding eg ESF or another fund	
Yes this project would be an existing, three actually, ESIF projects. UKSPF would provide replacement funding, allowing it to continue.	This would be considered a 'new' programme. One not funded by ESIF. It is new provision in that respect. Part of the project is already being funded by UKSPF and this would be a new element to it.
Why is UKSPF required?	
<i>Description given by the Provider</i>	<i>Description given by the Provider</i>

UKSPF is needed to continue the great work that has been established through the European Social Funding Programme.

Employment Support is not as simple as a quick fix pop up approach. We have learnt since 2017 when the priority axis for ESF came to Lancashire that there was a need to develop partnerships that will provide the full wraparound support for a participant that is not currently employed or economically inactive. This includes wellbeing support, housing support, cost of living support and true hand holding time for the participant to access.

National Lottery Opt in has now ceased and with ESF drawing to a close it will leave a massive hole of partnership based support for the participants in Local Authority areas. More and more we are hearing about local employers struggling to recruit local people. Our programmes have provided that service for employers to recruit well supported employees who have been mentored to be job ready and take on the challenge.

Without ESF the current programmes would lose 12 staff members who have all been supporting participants furthest from the labour market in Pendle. The projects have been targeting the most deprived wards where we have live time evidence there are high levels of Universal Credit Claimants and patterns of economic inactivity and previous successful engagement.

The UKSPF grant is required in order to extend valuable provision that exists elsewhere in East Lancashire/Calderdale to Pendle residents. Much of the existing provision is self-funded by Newground Together and the UKSPF grant funding will provide additional funding to match against our existing investment and extend support into the Borough.

Without the UKSPF funding there is the potential for some small-scale allocation of Active Engagement resource in the Borough but this would be very localised and have minimal impact compared with what can be achieved through this funding proposal. It is unlikely that delivery of the wider support will be financially viable in the absence of UKSPF funding.

We continually scan the horizon for additional external funding opportunities but currently there are no funds likely in the immediate future. However, should funds become available in these activity areas and/or the Pendle area we will utilise UKSPF funding (if successful) to leverage additional external funds.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that

- the Active Lancashire Step Change project (the name may change to Move On) to be selected to be funded in Year 3 from Interventions E33, E34 and E35, with the amounts set out in the table below.
- the Newground Together Greener Together Pendle to be selected for a funding allocation from Interventions E33, E34 and E35, in Year 3 of UKSPF (2024/25), with the amounts set out in the table below.

		Funding Request	
	Available UKSPF Funds for spend by Projects*	Active Lancashire – Step Change	Newground Together – Greener Together Pendle
E33		Recommendation	Recommendation
Year 3 Revenue £	412,945	274,013.89	138,931.07
Percentage %	100%	66.4%	33.6%
E34			
Year 3 Revenue £	158,215	113,539.44	44,675.28
	100%	71.8%	28.2%
E35			
Year 3 Revenue £	48,391	33,115.67	15,275.05
	100%	68.4%	31.6%

Appendix 1. Projects considered not suitable for Pendle UKSPF E33, E34, E35

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
	X	

Project

Reason for unsuitability:

Its purpose is to target the low level mental health needs of employees (in employment already). It had relevance post-covid when individuals returned to work after the societal upheaval of the pandemic. Healthy workforce, healthy business. The programme is a good idea but in practice it has not worked well in Lancashire and take up from business has been slow and difficult, including in Pendle. The view of the Skills Hub is that it can be considered tried and tested but did not work.

The in-work nature of the project means that it is not suitable for E34 whose purpose is to support people furthest from the labour market

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
X		X

Project

Reason for unsuitability:

The Skills Hub noted that this provider is an experienced provider and are satisfied with them as an organisation for us to work with.

However, the project which they have put forwards for consideration is simply for a continuation of existing activities they are sub-contracting for in Burnley borough. These same programmes have already been selected by us in our Investment Plan for continuation via the lead organisation. That is Step Change, from Active Lancashire/Selnet. The Active Lancashire partnership, already delivering in Pendle also has an advantage in continuity.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
X	X	X

Project

Reason for unsuitability:

The Skills Hub noted that this provider are an experienced provider and are satisfied with them as an organisation for us to work with. They already carry out activities to support economic inactivity, for which there is a need in Pendle.

However this could result in duplication/competition with activity from the proposed Selnet/Active Lancashire Step Change programme which this provider is already a sub-contractor for and which has already been selected for support within the Investment Plan and is being considered for further support in Year 3. Their application reads as a request to continue these same activities of Step Change, as well as other funded programmes they deliver on behalf of such as Invest in Youth, which would duplicate existing provision at the YES Hub.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
X	X	X

Project:

Reason for unsuitability:

The Skills Hub consider that these sorts of co-ordinator roles do have a value in promoting provision and connecting individuals to available support.

However, it is thought to be incompatible with the requirements of the programme in that sign posting and co-ordinating will not itself deliver the required outputs and outcomes. Where the sign-posting is to other UKSPF funded programmes in Pendle this would result in a duplication of outputs reported. Also, this provider already has infrastructure in place for referrals to their own courses so there would be no need to duplicate this through UKSFP funding. There might also be some overlap in the 16-24 age category with existing provision at the YES.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
X	X	X

Project:

Reason for unsuitability:

The Skills Hub are not familiar with this provider as a provider of skills based programmes and would question whether they have delivered the type of support we require before? How this project fits to the particular brief / requirements, What impact has this support had already? and What outputs and outcomes have they met previously?

The officer from the Policy and Localities team notes that the proposal seems to be on generic advice and not linked to employment support. The Skills Hub questioned how the same generic proposals for the support would ultimately result in the required skills outcomes. Examples include debt advice, mental health well being, cohesion, developing self-efficacy.

Some providers try to make a project fit, rather than self-excluding themselves if the project does not fit. Which has the effect of trying to shoe horn a project into categories it is not meeting. It was thought this was the case here.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
		X

Project:

Reason for unsuitability:

The Skills Hub acknowledged that whilst Volunteering is indeed a step into work, does the programme have experience in using allotments for this purpose and how this would be tracked. From experience the Skills Hub did not think that mental well-being support projects are effective at help people to find employment.

The concerns appear to be answered by the Policy team who know the project and confirm that whilst it could deliver on the volunteering aspect of the Intervention, it is not set-up to deliver the labour market related outcomes.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
		X

Project:

Reason for unsuitability:

Like the project above this is a project with an interest in the delivery of volunteering but one which is not linked to the requirements of the people and skills intervention.

The Skills Hub are in agreement that this this would not deliver our needs. The provider is not an experienced provider of skills related support. Those it seeks to work with are already in education and so do not have the employment related needs required to be supported. Where they do wish to work with adults this is to support parental, rather than labour market related needs. The project itself is for the operation of a Youth Hub, which is not compatible with the requirements for People and Skills.

In addition, the policy and localities officer also points out that the YES Hub already provides youth employment support provision and operates an outreach service so there is no need to fund a separate employment support service.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
		X

Project:

Reason for unsuitability:

It cannot be supported as the purpose of the project is to fund a building extension. As there is no capital allowance in these interventions it is not a suitable project and the funds would not be directly used for skills related needs.

It is another which has ticked the volunteering intervention but which is not likely to be able to deliver on the outputs and outcomes. The extension would allow for an expansion of the existing service which is not targeted at employment related outcomes, nor does the provider appear to experienced in delivering such employment related support. This provider requires a grant to fund a building extension, but they have found themselves applying for programmes funding, which they are not experienced in delivering.

Intervention ticked:

E33	E34	E35
X		X

Project: Healing Arts for All**Reason for unsuitability:**

This reads like an arts and culture project rather than one which would support people and skills needs. It is unclear why they ticked the People & Skills interventions .

The policy team commented that the organisation is not one with experience of employment support initiatives.

The Skills Hub question how the project would actually support individuals to get a job and bring them nearer to employment. The project detail is given but these are not its aims.