1. East Midlands
2. East of England
3. London
4. North East
5. North West
6. South East
7. South West
8. West Midlands
9. Yorkshire and the Humber
The Engage Development Partnership aims to pilot and test a number of projects that will support offenders to increase their skills and improve their employability. Led by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the organisation responsible for the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in England, partners will build on basic literacy and numeracy skills and vocational learning provision delivered in custodial settings to improve offenders’ motivation, skills and links to employers, which can ultimately lead to a positive employment outcome.

Learning, skills and employment can help break the cycle of offending

The range of activities includes: engaging employers and overcoming their negative perceptions about employing offenders; vocational training by employers to meet skill shortages; job brokerage to secure employment outcomes; mentoring; and accrediting unpaid work experience. The Engage Development Partnership resource totals £31 million and includes 150 partner organisations working with 9 LSC regions and 14 probation areas.
Strategic objectives

1 Develop, pilot and evaluate innovative methods of learner engagement, targeting non-traditional learners from several local area planning groups and one area-wide planning group based on career and life planning and skills development, particularly Skills for Life.

2 Develop and pilot the ‘users as developers’ approach through information and communication technology (ICT), other information, advice and guidance (IAG), and learning curriculum activities and tools – from an individual learner and tutor perspective.

3 Increase the understanding of cultural and linguistic impact on learning, especially with reference to Skills for Life learning.

4 Extend the current local provision planning infrastructure in order to support engagement of voluntary, community and work-based providers and individuals.

5 Develop an understanding of the barriers to progression within referral systems for adult learners.

6 Develop an alliance to reduce re-offending by working with and supporting employers and employment networks, encouraging employers to draw on offenders and ex-offenders as a valuable supply of labour and skills.

7 Develop accreditation opportunities for learning and vocational skills in line with the development of the Framework for Achievement for offenders who are completing sentences in the community. Using National Open College Network (NOCN) Progression Awards will provide the recognised credit-based qualifications, enabling offenders to acquire recognition for learning and skills development.

8 Seek to motivate and engage offenders in high-quality programmes of learning to allow them to gain qualifications in employment sectors where there is local demand.

9 Enhance the development of softer skills – such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving – needed in the workplace.
# Project costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSC region</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>£960,481</td>
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<td>North West</td>
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<td>North East</td>
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<td>Yorkshire and the Humber</td>
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<td>East Midlands</td>
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<td>West Midlands</td>
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<td>South East</td>
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<td>East of England</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£23,881,990</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probation area</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avon and Somerset</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
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<td>Cumbria</td>
<td>£180,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>£202,987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire</td>
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<td>Hertfordshire</td>
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<td>Leicestershire</td>
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<td>Northumbria</td>
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<td>West Mercia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,091,557</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total project cost**  £31,025,000
LSC regional activities

Across the nine English regions, activity will develop, trial, evaluate and mainstream innovative methods of:

a) employer engagement by:

- supporting offenders through dedicated mentors
- supporting employers to reach a greater understanding of the needs of offenders
- providing work-focused support to enable offenders to take advantage of employment opportunities
- providing beneficiary allowances to meet additional costs of employment
- providing support services to signpost offenders to other services to address barriers that may impact on employment possibilities

b) developing accreditation of learning within the Offender Behaviour Programme and within unpaid work

c) supported work placement projects, to break the deadlock of offenders believing they are unemployable and employers not wanting to employ offenders through an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) scheme, providing offenders with the opportunity to gain a stable period of employment.

Innovation

The needs of offenders in terms of employability will be tackled in a consistent manner, underpinning the knowledge, skills and mentoring that are linked to a supported employability outcome whenever possible.

Empowerment

Active participation by offenders in the design and implementation of interventions, including vocational skills training and job brokerage, will be enabled.

Partnership

The nine LSC OLASS regional teams will work with partners and stakeholders including HM Prisons, probation areas, the National Offender Management Service, OLASS delivery partners, Jobcentre Plus, and the voluntary and community sector.

Equal opportunities

The severe disadvantage of the client group in the labour market will be focused on using mentoring and brokerage to break down barriers to employment and skills.
Probation area activities

Accreditation of unpaid work through National Open College Network qualifications

- Painting and decorating.
- Gardening.
- Retail.
- Construction.

Merseyside ELEVATE: Intermediate Labour Market for offenders

- 20 offenders will obtain placement opportunities.
- 150 beneficiaries will attend specialist motivational employment sessions.
- 55 beneficiaries will obtain places on further education training courses.

General Offender Behaviour Programmes

- Victim awareness.
- Dealing with peer pressure.
- Enhanced thinking skills.

Avon and Somerset
Bedfordshire
Cheshire
Cumbria
Durham
Gloucestershire
Hertfordshire
Kent
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Merseyside
North Yorkshire
Northumbria
West Mercia
The Birmingham and Solihull Engage Development Partnership activities will promote lifelong learning and successfully result in the engagement of non-traditional learners.

Engage was created to accelerate the development of a new way of working, to widen participation and to maximise the impact of adult engagement activities. Key aims of the Engage Development Partnership are to:

- develop, trial, evaluate and mainstream innovative methods of engagement in community-based venues, including adult learning and skills development for non-traditional learners
- focus on geographical areas of disadvantage and low participation
- increase individual and community empowerment.

Birmingham Adult Education Service is a lead partner and has provided match funding for the Engage project to support activity that meets the project objectives. This has enabled the objectives to be shared with proposals invited from strategic partners (organisations that have signed up to the Development Partnership Agreement (DPA) to meet these objectives).

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**Community curriculum via Bournville College**

**Key achievements and outcomes**

- Internal and external meetings with partners have developed activities to meet identified needs. Discussions with children's centre staff and across different vocational sectors have identified and developed a range of interlinked opportunities.
- Students have accessed an information technology practitioners programme, a BTEC First Certificate in Science (within a Diploma programme) and an interactive media programme.
For further details about the Engage Development Partnership, please contact:

Telephone: +44 (0) 24 7682 3397
Email: olassequal@lsc.gov.uk

You can also visit our website:
www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/equal