**LEARNING AND SKILLS PROVISION 2008/9**

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for England invites expressions of interest from organisations for the delivery of learning and skills provision to employers, employees and young people not in work across England in the following areas:

**Young People’s Learning**
- 16-18 Apprenticeships
- Entry to Employment
- Specialist provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Specialist provision to engage young people who are currently not in education, employment or training
- Specific areas of provision as identified in Regional Commissioning Plans.

**Programmes and provision for adults**
- Provision for individuals to prepare them for sustainable employment – Skills for Jobs
- Basic Skills and Employability provision for Jobcentre Plus customers
- A range of enhanced skills and employment activities
- Apprenticeships, Work Based Learning [16-24 year olds]
- Apprenticeships for Adults, Work Based Learning [25+]
- Train to Gain training provision (including skills for life, level 2 and level 3 learning).

**Specialist Services**
We are also provisionally seeking a single supplier to deliver adult safeguarded learning provision in the Medway area.

**Other opportunities**
We are currently inviting expressions of interest for Careers Information and Advice services which opened on 18th January 2008. The Council would welcome expressions of interest from both organisations that are already in receipt of LSC funds and from public, private or third sector organisations who wish to access LSC funds for the first time.

The use of competitive tendering for provision is designed to open up the learning and skills market by enabling the best colleges and providers to extend their range of provision and by attracting new delivery providers to increase diversity, improve quality and stimulate innovation in the market. We will also be looking for providers who can offer packages of provision across several programme areas.

Further information and an online pre-qualification questionnaire are available on the LSC e-tendering portal: [https://lsc.bravosolution.com](https://lsc.bravosolution.com)

Instructions and online help will be available on the portal, should you require any assistance.

Submissions must be completed online and submitted by 12 noon on 3rd March 2008.

The provision will include activities funded by and providing match for, the European Social Fund.

For more information on all of these opportunities, including OLASS, please visit [www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/provider-procurement](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/provider-procurement)

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**INTEGRATED OFFENDERS’ LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE (OLASS)**

The Learning and Skills Council for England (LSC) invites Expressions of Interest from organisations to manage and deliver the Integrated Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) for offenders throughout the duration of their sentences. The current contracts are due to expire on 31st July 2009 and the new contracts will commence on 1st August 2009.

An exciting and major challenge for the integrated service will be to develop further a seamless learning journey for offenders, making learning relevant to the needs of the labour market and contributing to the aims set out in the Government’s Green Paper: Reducing Re-offending through Skills and Employment (December 2005) and the subsequent Reducing Re-offending through Skills and Employment Next Steps Document (December 2006).

The LSC will be looking for providers who can deliver innovative approaches to the key elements of the integrated service. The service will encompass elements of the following, in personalised packages to meet individual need.
- Information, advice and guidance
- Assessment of learner needs
- Skills for Life, that is, literacy, numeracy and language, including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Information and communications technology skills
- Work-related learning
- Prescribed education for young people and young adult offenders
- Personal and social development
- Distance learning, resource-based learning and e-learning
- Preparation for release, resettlement, employment and further learning.

Within the duration of the contracts running from August 2009, the LSC is seeking to tender for education services in two new privately managed prisons which will open in Maghull, Merseyside, and Belmarsh West, East London. It is expected that organisations that successfully secure contracts to deliver in the areas where these new establishments will be located, will also assume responsibility for delivery in these establishments. Further details will be provided at invitation to Tender stage.

Contracts will be awarded in the first instance for a five-year period, which will be subject to annual review. Interested parties must utilise the LSC e-tendering portal which is available at [https://lsc.bravosolution.com](https://lsc.bravosolution.com)

Any organisation wishing to express an interest in managing and delivering OLASS from 1st August 2009, must use the LSC’s e-tendering portal and complete the supplementary questionnaire which is specific to OLASS, and is only available through that portal.

This includes all organisations that have previously submitted a successful PQQ.

Submissions must be completed online and submitted by 12 noon on 3rd March 2008.