

# Building Better Opportunities Tees Valley

Final  
news update



European Union  
European  
Social Fund



## Building Better Opportunities – Read all about it!

**Building Better Opportunities** is a programme which will address social inclusion in the Tees Valley area by delivering support to disadvantaged working aged people to move them towards the labour market. It uses European Social Funds that have been matched by the Big Lottery.

- ▶ **Building Better Opportunities will be a single service across the Tees Valley.**
- ▶ **It will be managed by one Lead Body with a range of organisations working together as a partnership.**

You can now read all about it - The project outline for the Tees Valley Building Better Opportunities programme titled 'Holistic Support' was published by Big Lottery on June 5th. Tees Valley Holistic Support has £8,880,100 of funds, will start sometime between March 2016 to August 2016 and will run up till December 2019, with a possible extension for another three years. It has the following three themes:

- 1. Removing Health and Wellbeing Barriers to Employment for those with multiple complex needs.** This will address multiple barriers to entering work, offering support to participants who may be experiencing poor physical and mental health, childcare or caring responsibilities, poor unstable housing situations, drug and alcohol addictions, lack of personal transport and lack of basic social/employability skills.
- 2. Steps towards employment.** This will provide ways that people can become work-ready. Supporting Individuals to gain work-related experience through access to volunteering and other work experience opportunities.
- 3. Financial/Digital Inclusion.** This will provide support for individuals to develop their financial and digital skills to improve their financial stability.

It will support at least 2153 people by involving them in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:

- 1435 men;
- 718 women;
- 1076 people who are unemployed;
- 1077 people who are economically inactive;
- 322 people who are 50 or older;
- 431 people with disabilities;
- 108 people from ethnic minorities

People can be counted more than once in each category.

Organisations hoping to become the Lead Body for the Tees Valley have until the 3rd of August to get the first stage of their application to the Lottery. This means they will be forming partnerships with local groups across the Tees Valley. If you want to be considered as part of these partnerships you can find the contact details of potential lead bodies on the HVDA web site <http://www.hvda.co.uk/bbo> and let them know what your group does

To find out more about the research work that helped shape Tees Valley Building Better Opportunities programme visit the HVDA web site <http://www.hvda.co.uk/bbo> where you will also find a list of the potential lead bodies that have agreed to share details.

To find out more about the Building Better Opportunities programme, including general guidance notes visit the Big Lottery Building Better Opportunities page <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/bbo> for the local project outline follow the links to the Tees Valley.

## Thank you for helping the Tees Valley get ready for Building Better Opportunities

Work to get ready for the Tees Valley Social Inclusion work started over two years ago when a dedicated steering group started meeting. More recently Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency were supported by the Big Lottery to research the need and gather more evidence.

HVDA's involvement in the Building Better Opportunities programme comes to an end in June, we would like to thank all the people who have helped develop the Tees Valley BBO programme so far especially:

The chair and members of the Social Inclusion steering group, The people who filled in the questionnaires, The people who attended the focus group meetings, The people who agreed to be interviewed for the fact-finding report, The people who attended the lead body, potential provider and borough wide events, Staff from TVU and Big Lottery for their presentations and support at the events and the members of the ESIF Committee.