



Application to the Big Projects Fund

Project Name: Early Years FDA Pathway

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Document Distribution:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action/Information</i>
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Tina Tilmouth	Ludlow College	Curriculum design	
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1 Background

By 2015 each early years setting is required to support quality practice by ensuring there is a Graduate Lead Early Years Practitioner in place. This requirement is being met by implementing the provision of Foundation Degrees to be delivered in local Further Education establishments.

Currently, there are 32 early years' settings within a 20 mile radius of Ludlow. Shropshire County Council Early Years Team have been instrumental in supporting the implementation of HE provision in Shrewsbury and are now seeking to ensure there is provision in the south of the County. Although such degrees are offered in Hereford, Telford and Shrewsbury, there is strong indication that numbers for a Foundation Degree at Ludlow College are rising with 14 early years' settings already expressing an interest in accessing the course and enquiries from 15 individuals who have approached the college for information are on record.

There has also been an increase in the demand for Level two and three CACHE courses at Ludlow College. A new Level two course has been offered for the first time in 2008 with 22 students enrolling. The Level three course has also had increased numbers for the past two years with numbers rising from cohorts of 12 in 2006 to 25 in 2008. The links with Ludlow School show that their child development GCSE course is well subscribed to, with pupils expressing a wish to undertake study further at post sixteen.

2 Objectives of the Project

To investigate the opportunity to deliver a Foundation Degree for Early Years practitioners at Ludlow College, and therefore support the local community and future employment.

To strengthen relations with local early years setting in their endeavours to meet the government requirements of graduate practitioners by the year 2015.

3 Project Approach

It is proposed that:

- Activities will be undertaken during the spring of 2009 to provide quantitative evidence for the need for a new Foundation Degree in Early years starting September 2009, substantiating the knowledge currently held, based on feedback from Shropshire County council and perceived demands of the early years sector.
- Once the resources and awareness of the provision are established the plan is to deliver the Foundation Degree in Early Years at Ludlow College in partnership with Worcester University.
- Ludlow College will assist H&WLLN to provide information for all interested parties in the region, and in addition, publicise externally in the prospectus.

4 Scope:

A Key Products from the project

Higher Education provision in Early Years in partnership with Shropshire County Council and University of Worcester:

- FDA In Early Years offered at Ludlow College from September 2009 with an initial cohort of 16-20

5 Constraints

Current HR and the recruitment of new staff to deliver the programme pathway
Existing resources

6 Initial Project Case

- Market research undertaken to confirm suitable early years pathway that meets the needs of HE progression
- Review of existing resources, both physical and human resources
- Identification of additional resource needs including the number of Work placement and classroom facilities to ensure fit for purpose and cost effective
- Development of course materials and resources that meet both academic and vocational pathways
- Involvement of local businesses and employers at an early stage
- Investigation the potential for developing further vocational pathways to a higher education programme in Early years in Ludlow.

7 Benefits of the Project

- Strengthened links with the local community, including town and the schools within the area
- Increased opportunities for a mix of academic and vocational pathways to HE
- Increased applications

8 Key Assumptions

- There is a market for this curriculum area- Already 15 people have expressed an interest in this degree for September 2009
- Suitable staff and resources can be identified
- Further resources are available within the college to support this area of development

9 Costs (This should include the commitment of the organisation to pay 20% of the costs)

Double click on the table below to detail the costs of the project (to insert another row, highlight the row after where you would like the row to be inserted and go to 'Insert' & 'Rows')

If successful in this bid Ludlow College will commit £4000 to the project.

Description of Costs	£
Revenue Costs:	
Staff costs to undertake the research, establish local employer links and develop the materials	10,000.00
Sub-Total of Revenue Costs	10,000.00
Capital Costs:	
Early Years Resources	10,000.00
Sub-Total of Capital Costs	10,000.00
Total Cost	20,000.00

10 Project Timescale

It is estimated that the work will begin in January 2009 and will be completed by September 2009. This takes account of the time required to undertake the research, recruit the required personnel and develop the resources required to deliver the first stage of the curriculum offer.

11 How will the project be evaluated?

The key performance indicators will be:

- The number of applications received during 2009 to ensure viability of offer
- The recruitment of learners in September 2009 to ensure cost effective delivery

12 How will the project be sustained?

Students views from the 2009/10 cohort will be used to revise and further develop the offer with the potential for delivering a further F/T vocational programme in 2010, at Level 3, followed by higher education provision in 2013.

13 Which aims, outcomes and/or targets will the project achieve for the HWLLN? Please also state which funding criteria this project meets and how.

The key targets will be:

- To increase the numbers of students entering higher education with vocational qualifications
- To involve employers in the development, design and delivery of curriculum where possible

However, the following may also be met:

- To increase the number of part time students entering higher education whilst continuing employment
- To help the target groups of students succeed in higher education
- To facilitate a change in the design and delivery of curriculum in H & W to meet the needs of the target students

14 Initial Risk Log

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Unable to recruit the required staff	L	H	Use of other college staff
Unable to identify suitable resources with the budget	M	M	Identify suitable resources early in the planning stage
Lack of interest by local community	L	M	Market the proposals at an early stage in the development

15 Project Team

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Chris Conoley	Ludlow College	Project Manager
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