

Partner search

Name of your organisation: Westminster City Council

Brief description of organisation:

The local authority at the heart of London, United Kingdom, Westminster City Council manages a uniquely complex and vibrant area at the forefront of London's economy and cultural offer, presenting a diverse set of opportunities and challenges for local public services. Housing and employment, and the links between them, are a key strategic focus for the organisation.

Funding programme you wish to apply to: European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EASI)

Project objectives:

- Develop and test a new service model around integrated service delivery across housing, employment and other services, focused on households (singles and families) who are homeless and are currently placed in temporary accommodation, supporting SIP objectives around homelessness
- Develop and test a model of tracking individuals requiring support across agencies and regions (e.g. people displaced from their original area by a lack of availability of temporary housing) to understand how it is possible to develop integrated packages of tailored support which travel with the individual, and support the draw out the implications for key European issues such as migration and inter-regional cooperation
- Better understand the institutional and cultural barriers to integration, and how best to overcome these, with reference to the European context and comparisons
- Better understand the fiscal incentives around integrated service delivery, and how best to deploy these to scale up successful delivery models, through applied cost-benefit analysis in the context of current UK and European approaches to fiscal, housing and social security policy

Project activities:

- Development and delivery of a pilot service based in Westminster, London, UK working with a number of households in temporary accommodation, including:

ACCESS EUROPE NETWORK

- Intensive caseworker support: skilling and training of caseworkers
- 'Single front door' and single assessment processes across disparate services such as children and family related services, housing, employment, social security and health, using common standards of segmentation and needs analysis such as the ETHOS typology
- Approach to the sharing and safeguarding of data, building on learning from recent programmes in this area
- Robust independent evaluation, in partnership with one or more research institutions, to test the viability of integration-based delivery models, achieve a high standard of evidence (ideally via an RCT) and carry out fiscal and wider cost-benefit analysis to assist with scaling and mainstreaming good practice
- Report and seminar series drawing on European good practice and partners / comparators and applying learning from the pilot in support of the SIP objectives

Estimated duration: 18 months – 2 years

Financial details (match-funding requirements?): Value of project likely to be c. 1m euros including local match. No further match required

Are you planning to be the lead partner? Yes

What partners are you looking for? Westminster is a complex urban environment at the heart of a global city and we are seeking a European partner who would find it mutually beneficial to share learning and good practice. Partners could be from the public, private, third or education sectors with a significant interest in local service integration, housing and employment. We would be keen to work with a partner to draw direct comparisons across member nations on the integration of social services and issues around housing affordability, including the management of institutional and cultural issues.

Deadline for receiving declarations of interest: 4th November 2015