



**PROJECT PROPOSAL
NORTH AREA INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT
FUND**

Board Meeting – 5 February 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Board members an application for funding from the East Ayrshire Employment Initiative (EAEI) in respect of the North Area Individual Employment Fund project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The priority of “assisting people to get into work through the development of skills, training and employment opportunities” was identified as being of particular concern by the working group that was convened following the Board meeting of Thursday 13 November 2003.
- 2.2 The working group decided to pursue actions and partnership opportunities within the priority as identified above.
- 2.3 As a result of the presentation made by Mr George Fraser of the EAEI during the Employment Showcase that took place on Thursday 13 November 2003, it was agreed by the working group to request that a project proposal be submitted for the Board’s consideration.

3. NORTH AREA INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT FUND PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The project application for the North Area Individual Employment Fund is included in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The overall funding will be used to enable 20 unemployed residents within identified areas of the North of East Ayrshire, who are not eligible for funding from the Action Team for Jobs, to move into employment quickly and easily by providing them with financial assistance to remove barriers to work.
- 3.3 The Individual Employment Fund can help with:
- Training
 - Transport
 - Specialised Equipment
 - Childcare, and
 - Wage Subsidy.

- 3.4 It is expected that 70% of the unemployed residents that access the Individual Employment Fund will either gain employment or access further education or vocational training in order to increase their employability.
- 3.5 The timescale for the project will be dependent on the receipt of sufficient funds but it is hoped that it will begin in February 2004 and continue throughout the year to December 2004.

4. FUNDING SCENARIO

- 4.1 As can be seen from the table below the request for funding from the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board amounts to £8,600, approximately 63% of the total project costs.

FUNDING SCENARIO

North Social Inclusion Initiative	£8,600
Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire	£5,000
Total Funding	£13,600

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board:
- i) agree to part fund the North Area Individual Employment Fund project;
 - ii) note that if funding is granted that a quarterly monitoring report will be submitted to the North Social Inclusion Initiative; and
 - iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
23 January 2004

**Project Application to North Social Inclusion Initiative from East Ayrshire
Employment Initiative**

Project Title: North Area Individual Employment Fund

1. PROJECT AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This application is for funding of £8,600 from the North Social Inclusion Initiative. The funding will be used to enable 20 unemployed residents from the North of East Ayrshire find employment through the Individual Employment Fund. It is expected that 70% of the applicants will go into employment. The total cost of the project will be £13,600. Additional funding for the project will come from Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire. The project will start in February 2004 and finish on 31 December 2004.

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE APPLICATION

The unemployment rate in East Ayrshire continues to remain above the Scottish average. Within East Ayrshire certain areas have a higher level of unemployment than others particularly in the north of the authority. East Ayrshire Employment Initiative has a range of initiatives that can help people in these areas gain employment. Amongst the most successful is the Individual Employment Fund. It allows an unemployed individual to move into employment quickly and easily by providing funding to remove barriers to work. At present the amount of funding we can obtain for the Individual Employment Fund for the North of East Ayrshire is very limited and there is presently none available for applicants from this area.

3. THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT FUND

The Individual Employment Fund is available to unemployed residents of any area of East Ayrshire not eligible for funding from the Action Team for Jobs.

The Individual Employment Fund can help with

- Training
- Transport
- Specialised Equipment
- Childcare
- Wage subsidy

4. TARGETS/OUTCOMES

The funding will be used to:

1. **Enable 20 local unemployed from the North Area aged between 16 - 65 to gain employment** by giving them a grant from the Individual Employment fund to help with training, childcare, transport costs, specialised equipment, etc.
2. **Advertise the fund in those areas in the North of East Ayrshire that have the highest levels of unemployment** to ensure that local residents are aware of the funding. Areas such as Stewarton and the Irvine Valley would be a priority as they are not eligible for Action Team Funding.
3. **Organise a series of publicity events in local community centres** and other public buildings where local unemployed people could meet with an East Ayrshire Employment Initiative advisor to discuss their application to the fund.
4. **Provide aftercare support** from one of our advisors to ensure anyone receiving help from the fund remains in sustainable employment.

5. INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

The key indicators for success would be the number of unemployed from the North of East Ayrshire who will gain employment or access Further Education or vocational training in order to increase their employability. We would expect 70% of applicants to access employment or Further Education or vocational training.

6. TIMESCALE

The project would begin in February 2004 and finish on 31 December 2004. Applications to the fund would be able to be processed from early February 2004. Publicity for the project would begin in February 2004 with the local publicity events beginning in March 2004 and continuing throughout the year to 31 December 2004.

7. PROJECT EXPENSES

STAFF COSTS		
Senior Opportunity Advisor	(96 hours @£19.48 per hour)	£1870
Opportunity Advisor	(168 hours @£16.54 per hour)	£2780
OVERHEAD COSTS		
Advertising	Design and printing of posters	£750
Let fees	For hire of community centers	£200
BENEFICAIRY COSTS		
Applications to Individual Employment Fund	For training, childcare, specialist equipment @ an average of £400 per applicant	£8,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£13,600

POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION FROM SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE AYRSHIRE	£5000
POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION FROM NORTH BOARD	£8,600

8. BENEFICIARIES AND BENEFICIARY NUMBERS

The project aims to target 20 local unemployed from the North Area Social Inclusion Initiative aged between 16 and 65 who have been unemployed for at least one day. Applicants do not need to be in receipt of jobseekers allowance.

9. MONITORING/EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

A quarterly report will be submitted to the North Social Initiative Social Inclusion Co coordinator for forwarding to the Board. This will detail progress against targets for expenditure and planned outcomes, number of beneficiaries helped, type of support provided and case studies.

All expenditure will be invoiced and recorded using East Ayrshire Employment Initiative's existing financial systems. A record of expenditure for this project will be kept separately and be audited as part of our normal audit process by Smith and Wallace, Chartered Accountants.

For further information Contact:

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15 January 2004***