

Linking Minority Groups to ESF

Wednesday 9th November 2011

Programme

The aim of this workshop is to look at ways in which voluntary and community organisations, working with minority groups in London, can develop informal and formal learning programmes to pave the way to projects, which may later attract support from the European Social Fund.

9.30am Registration

9.45am **Welcome & Introductions**

The Distribution of ESF & Poverty in London

Ray Phillips, London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium

~ as one of the main financial tools of the European Union, the European Social Fund has been at work in London since 1957. Drawing on the research of the Third Sector European Network described in the article alongside, LVSTC has set out to capture the distribution of these Funds across London.

QUESTIONS

10.15am **Informal Adult & Community Learning as a Building Block**
Simon Beer, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

~ as part of the Government Review of Further Education, a Public Consultation has just closed on the future of adult and community learning. For many adults, this provision is the first tentative step back into training and towards employment. Community groups are key in the delivery of this service, which can range from highly informal to more formal accredited routes. These can lead to sources of funding, including ESF.

QUESTIONS

11.15am Close

Participants are welcome to join the free European Anti-Poverty Network Conference, "Getting out of the Crisis Together", which will begin in Europe House at 11.30am to close at 3.30pm (with lunch included).

LVSTC is organising an early morning Workshop to look at ways in which voluntary and community organisations, working with minority groups in London, can develop informal and formal learning programmes to pave the way to projects, which may later attract support from the European Social Fund.

ESF continues to be developed as a tool of public employment policy. The Government sees employment as the main route out of poverty. Yet, although those furthest from the labour market are often socially excluded, the story in London, as elsewhere, is that many vulnerable people in work are also poor ~ and becoming poorer! Voluntary and community sector providers are often working most closely with such people, who are economically excluded but who voluntarily choose to meet at community level.

This free Workshop will look at the ways in which ESF projects, led by the third sector, have spread across London in a pattern that reflects the pattern of poverty, as portrayed in *London's Poverty Profile* by Trust for London. Some consideration will also be given to comparing this map of provision with recent research by the Financial Times on the geographical pattern of rioting during the summer.

We shall then look at some of the opportunities opening up for informal adult & community education with the help of Simon Beer from the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, which is helping the Government to complete their latest Consultation in this area.