



## THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN THE EAST MIDLANDS: KEY FACTS

### 2007 to 2013 Programme

#### **Funding**

£188 million ESF

£188 million national match funding

£376 million in total

#### **Targets**

Total number of people who will be helped to improve their skills and job prospects = 147,000

Number of people not in work who will be helped in to jobs by the end of their ESF course = 17,000

Number of the most disadvantaged people who will make positive progress towards jobs = 12,000

Number of disadvantaged young people who will be re-engaged in learning or a job = 7,000

Number of people who will gain (full) qualifications (including basic skills qualifications) = 27,000

#### **Regional priorities**

##### *Priority 1 – Extending employment opportunities*

The objective of Priority 1 is to increase employment and to reduce unemployment and inactivity. All actions within this priority will contribute to the strategic priorities contained within the Regional Economic Strategy, the East Midlands employment, skills and productivity partnership Action Plan priorities, and the ESF Operational Programme.

In the East Midlands, actions within Priority 1 will seek to address the following priorities within the Regional Economic Strategy:

- Employment, learning and skills, which aims to move more people into better jobs in growing businesses; and
- Economic inclusion, which aims to overcome the barriers or market failures, that prevent people from participating fully in the regional and local economy.

## *Priority 2 – Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce*

Priority 2 of the ESF programme is focused on up-skilling and qualifying the employed. All actions within this priority will contribute to the strategic priorities contained within the Regional Economic Strategy and the England ESF Operational Programme.

Priority 2 actions will also focus on addressing the issues and priorities contained within the East Midlands employment, skills and productivity partnership Action Plan, in particular focusing on better quality employment and equipping more people of all ages with the skills to take up employment and aspire to better jobs.

### **Co-financing Organisations**

Department for Work and Pensions

Learning and Skills Council

Local Authorities in East Midlands Consortium.

### **2000 to 2006 Programme**

#### **Achievements**

Number of people helped into jobs since 2000 = 16,300

Number of people gaining qualifications since 2000 = 67,300

#### **Case study: ASSERT Project - Northamptonshire Society for Autism**

The ESF supported ASSERT project (Academic, Social Skills, Education, Relationship Training) aims to enhance the independence of people with autism and prepare them for employment. ASSERT has been awarded £60,000 of ESF funding and runs to March 2008. The project supports adults who have an autistic spectrum condition with focus on social and communication skills, work preparation, and personal development.

Through careful assessment of each client's needs and interests a learning programme is developed based on a personal timetable which caters for their individual development. Progress is monitored, with reviews taking place twice a year. Work preparation activities include: developing practical work skills such as self-organisation, concentration, co-ordination and the ability to follow instructions; basic computer skills and office skills; creating a CV, job applications and preparation for interviews.

ASSERT is a co-financed project through the Learning & Skills Council and is also working closely with Connexions, Employment and Disability Services, Community Services, Learn Direct and the National Autistic Society. By 31

December 2007 ASSERT has helped 8 clients into employment and 18 to access college or further training.