



VCS sector perspective on ESF 2014-2020 in London



MAYOR OF LONDON



LVSC's role



- Organisational priorities around tackling poverty and inequality drive our employment and skills work
- Employment and skills provider network of 500+ charities and social enterprises (since 2010)
- VCS Assist Third sector technical assistance project (since 2012)
- Strategic representation on LEP SEWVG, ESF & ERDF Regional committees, ESF Adult planning group, NCVO European Funding Network

Engagement so far



- Enormous interest in Big Lottery ESF offer
- Engagement with VCS from LEP and Opt-Ins on programme development has been positive
- LVSC and other VCS reps have contributed through GLA's task and finish groups
- We have also convened parallel thematic VCS working groups on: in-work progression for low paid workers; older people; BAME communities, including refugees; parental employment; ex-offenders; disability employment; multiple complex needs

Issues emerging



- Hard to help clients need holistic support over a longer term than current programmes allow. ‘Holistic’: MH, housing, debt, advice - came up repeatedly
- Narrow PBR mitigates against holistic support
- Payment models must recognise a range of outcomes: engagement, distance travelled measures, self-employment and mini jobs
- Working strategically with employers is crucial
- Lots of examples of good practice but evidence patchy and hard for providers to sustain/scale up
- Gaps: refugees, disabled people, complex needs, persistent low pay, community based provision, etc



Road ahead



Delivery:

- LVSC: awareness raising and helping VCS to bid and deliver (focus on employers, partnerships, outcome based funding)
- Need for on-going support for VCS providers during programme

Policy:

- How will BBO sit alongside Opt-In programmes already developed? How to ensure entirety of BBO strategic and aligned?
- Flexible approach needed where statutory provision exists but is ineffective/inadequate – e.g. ESOL, disability.

Governance:

- Ensure collaboration across statutory/employer/VCS stakeholders
- Strengthen VCS representation on LEP and ESIF committee
- Need a strategic oversight of performance with respect to labour market inequalities

