



7th July, 2016

NORFOLK CHARITY PARTNERSHIP ON TRACK

FOR BIG LOTTERY PROJECT FUNDS

A Norfolk charity partnership is through to the final stage to secure £1.6m funding to help hard-to-reach young people with complex needs into training and employment. The Matthew Project will lead the bid with five other charities: NANSA, the Prince's Trust, Gyros, YMCA and Norwich Mind plus Community Interest Company ACE.

Together they are planning to deliver the ground-breaking 'On Track' after months of planning, consultations and workshops to create the partnership proposal.

On Track plans to use Big Lottery Fund and European Social Fund money to transform the lives of around 500 young people and their families. The project will provide life coaching, training and in-work support for young people with complex needs – such as disabilities, mental health or language disadvantages. Some live in families that suffer unemployment from generation to generation, others may have personal or family history of substance misuse.

The On Track partnership is due to receive up to £50,000 of development funding from the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.

Paul Martin, CEO of the Matthew Project which led the bid, said, "it is great to see what can happen with charities, businesses and government come together like this. We plan to help 531 young people from challenging backgrounds to overcome major barriers and move into training, education and employment.

-more follows-

Charity partnership on track for Big Lottery project funds../2

The project will open up opportunities and we would work alongside employers to make it happen. It could transform the lives of hundreds of families – and even the future children of those we reach over project’s three-year lifespan,” added Mr Martin.

The Department for Work and Pensions is the Managing Authority for the England European Social Fund programme. Established by the European Union, the European Social Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support skills development, employment and job creation, social inclusion and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.

If ultimately successful, the funds will be utilised in Norfolk between 2017 and 2020.

“The charity collaboration is exciting and demonstrates a progressive model of joined up thinking. Now we can really hone the proposal to meet the rigorous demands of European Social Funding and the Big Lottery objectives,” added Paul Martin.

For more **information for individuals** on services and support visit:

www.norfolkrecoverypartnership.org.uk or www.matthewproject.org, Tel: 01603 616123

Ends

For more media information please contact Esther Heybourne 07765232028

Notes to editors

- The Big Lottery Fund supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities across the UK. We are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by the National Lottery and invest over £650 million a year in projects big and small in health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 we have awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Every year we fund 13,000 small local projects tackling big social problems like poor mental health and homelessness.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.
- Building Better Opportunities is jointly funded with the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England. The Department for Work and Pensions is the Managing Authority for the England European Social Fund programme. Established by the European Union, European Social Fund funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, skills development, job creation, social inclusion and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.