

### **VOLA, Sefton CVS and EU funding: a brief introduction to projects and partnerships**

Commencing in January 2016 and running until July 2018, **Working Futures** is a new skills and employment support programme targeted at 16-29 year old Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Its primary aim is to support local people into, or closer to, sustainable employment.

It is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which is managed through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as part of the wider 2014-20 European Structural and Investment Funds programme.

The *Working Futures* delivery partnership consists of 23 local voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations, led by Greenbank College as Accountable Body and DWP contract holder.

Operational partnership/programme management is led by VOLA Consortium, working through a service level agreement to Greenbank College, to manage the partnership supply chain, including all financial and participant related monitoring/evidence contractual requirements.

VOLA Consortium itself is a relatively young organisation, established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in October 2013 and registered as a charity in October 2014, following its previous successful operation as an unincorporated partnership since 2007. VOLA Consortium is incubated in Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS), which provides management facilities, with consortium management team members formally employed by Sefton CVS but fully deployed on VOLA Consortium business.

Sefton CVS, in partnership with VOLA Consortium, Housing Associations and a range of other organisations are also currently bidding for a Big Lottery Fund/ ESF co-financed Digital Inclusion project, which is planned to start early 2017. If successful, the advertised Quality Coordinator role will also cover this project, in addition to the above *Working Futures* project.

As this brief introduction suggests, our principles are founded on true partnership working and the post-holder will be required to operate in a dynamic partnership environment, forging and maintaining effective and efficient relationships with Delivery Partners, whilst ensuring contractual compliance of all finance and monitoring related systems and evidence.