Building Better Opportunities Learning and Networking Day

Welcome and Overview of the Day
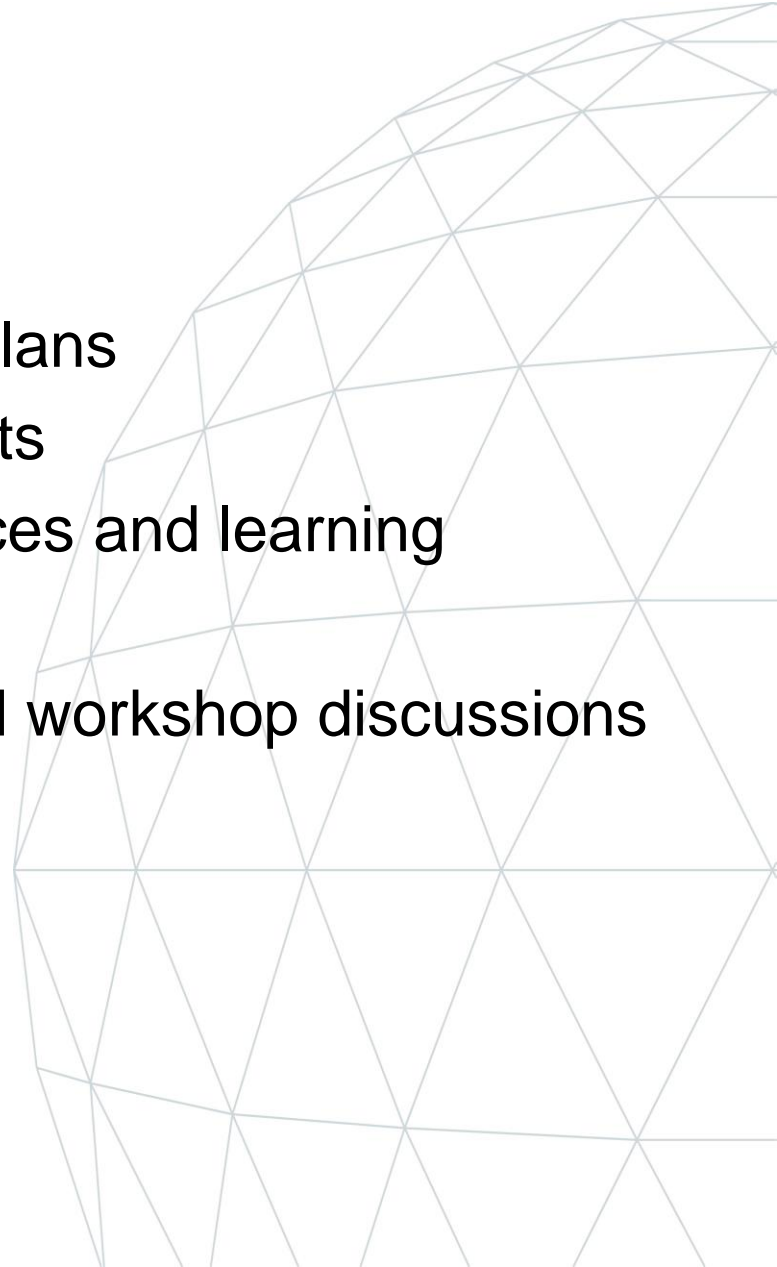
Introductions and aims for the day

- Introductions
- Aims:
  - Overview of evaluation work plans
  - Get to know other BBO projects
  - Share early delivery experiences and learning
- Agenda/Structure
  - Presentations, networking and workshop discussions

Workshops

1. Partnerships and delivery structures

2. Lessons from early ESF delivery

3. Future BBO learning and networking

Building Better Opportunities Evaluation Overview

Kath McKenna - Ecorys

Evaluation requirements

- Identify what is working well and why for particular groups and in delivering in line with ESF rules

- Qualitative and quantitative research with grant holders and others on the two themes of Impact and Access

- Shared learning to inform and improve delivery

Key areas for investigation

- Key themes for the evaluation are Access and Impact

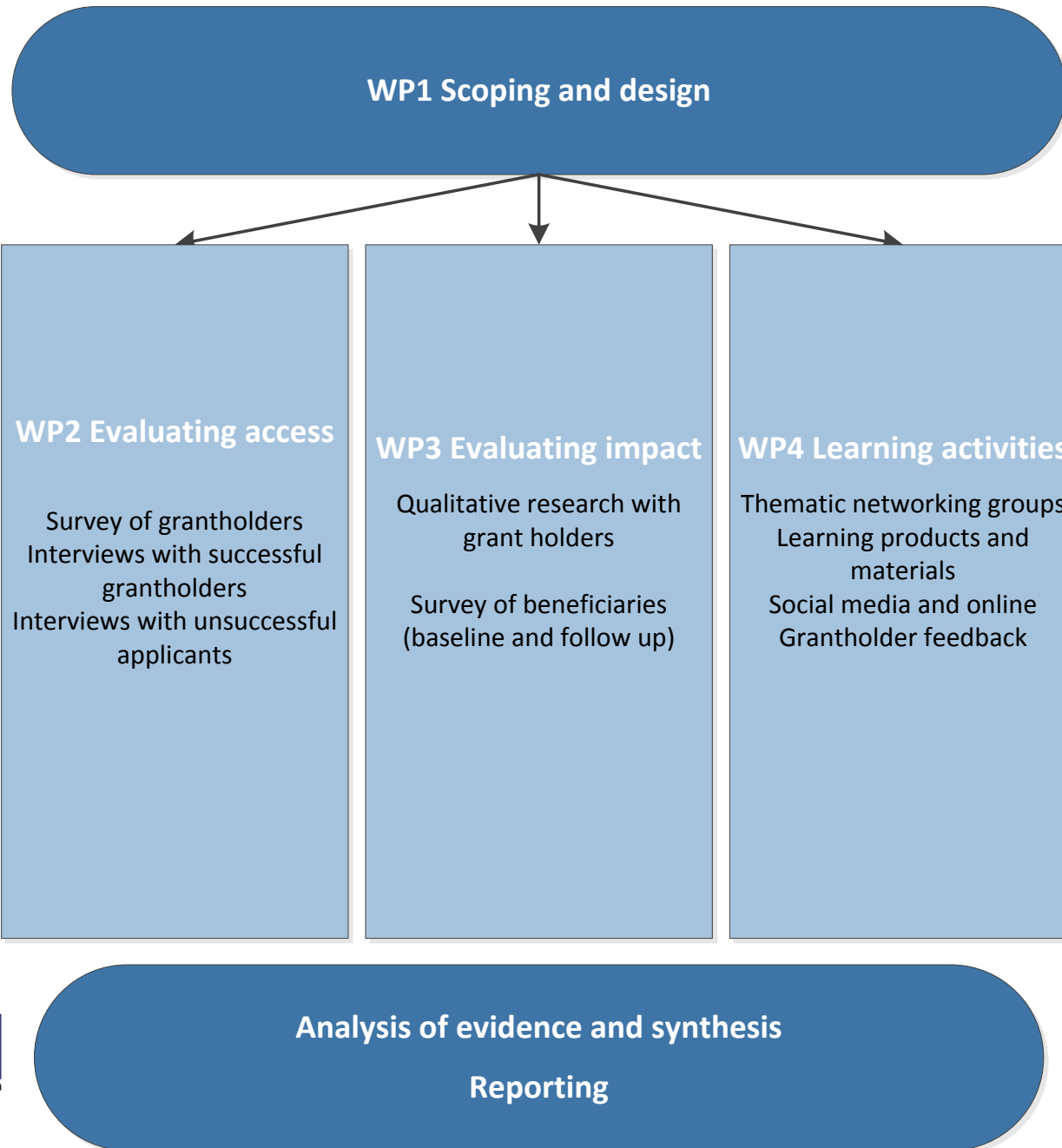- Evaluation questions focus on:

Access and barriers	Working with ESF
Partnership arrangements	Delivery arrangements
Profile of participants	Intervention approaches
Employer engagement	Outcomes
Sustainability	

ECORYS

WP1 Scoping and design

WP2 Evaluating access

Survey of grantholders
Interviews with successful
grantholders
Interviews with unsuccessful
applicants

WP3 Evaluating impact

Qualitative research with
grant holders

Survey of beneficiaries
(baseline and follow up)

WP4 Learning activities

Thematic networking groups
Learning products and
materials
Social media and online
Grantholder feedback

Analysis of evidence and synthesis

Reporting

LOTTERY FUNDED

BIG LOTTERY FUND

European Union
European
Social Fund

To Identify **what is working well and why** in terms of **access** and **compliance with ESF rules**

How:

- Surveys and interviews with grant holders
- Interviews with unsuccessful applicants

To identify **what is working/not working well and why** in terms of **impact** for particular groups (i.e. approaches to engaging and supporting certain target groups and their outcomes)

How:

- Participant outcome survey
- Deep and narrow qualitative research with projects

5. Learning Activities

To **share learning within BBO** so projects can learn and improve delivery in 'real time'.

How:

- Networking groups including learning events, webinars and peer one-to-one learning

- Learning products

- Online communications – www.buildingbetteropportunities.org.uk

To **expand this learning to other stakeholders** outside of BBO

How:

- Learning products – papers and case studies, evaluation reports

- Online communications

- Scoping stage completed
  - Consultations with key stakeholders
  - Document and data review
  - Evaluation Steering Group

- Evaluating access
  - Unsuccessful applicant interviews
  - Grant holder and partner survey

7. Evaluation next steps

- In-depth Interviews with BBO partnerships

- Design and scoping work for participant survey

- In-depth case study work

- Networking and learning activities

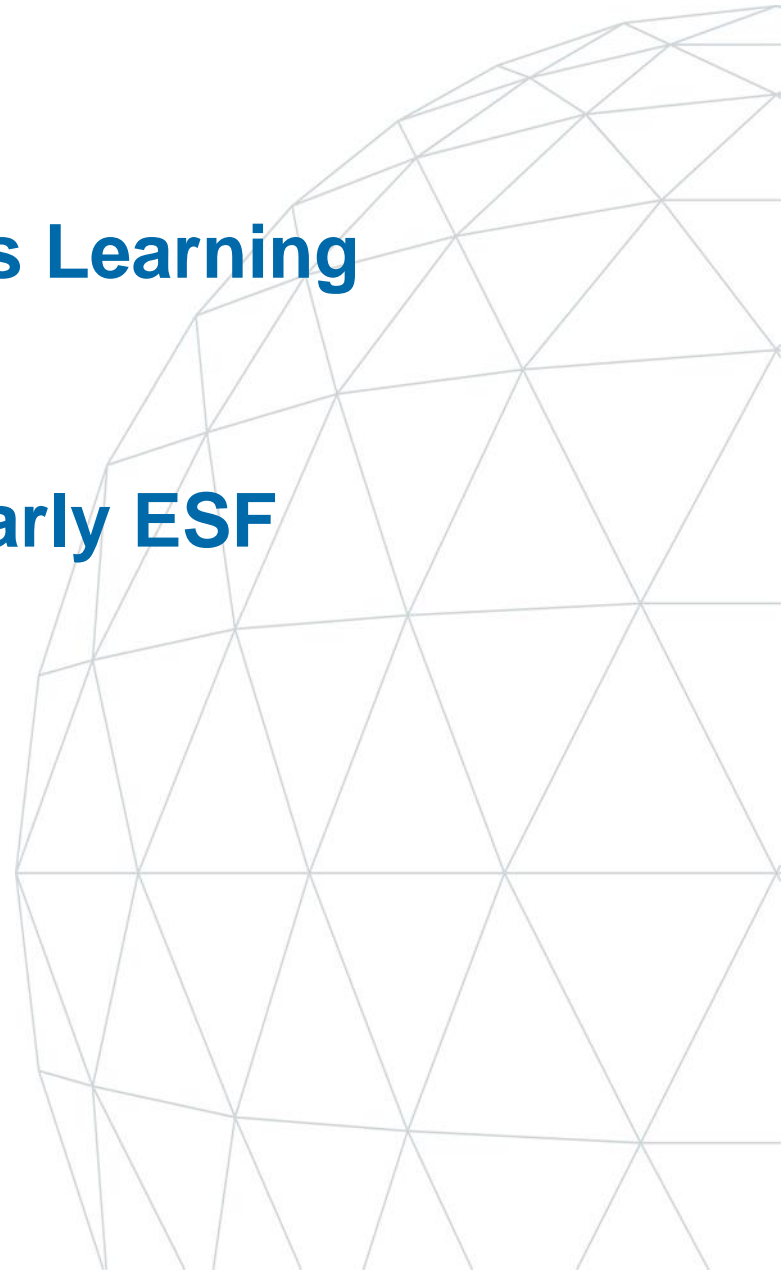# Building Better Opportunities Learning and Networking Day

Workshop – Lessons from early ESF delivery

Grant holder survey response

- To date 240 responses received

- 25% were lead organisations, 75% were partners

- 24 of the 38 LEP areas were represented within the survey

ESF experience

- Over half (54%) of organisations had applied for ESF funding previously, 22% had applied for ERDF, 48% had applied to other EU funding sources.

- 15% were specifically attracted to BBO as it provided them with access to ESF or European funding.

  > "*This is the first time the opportunities have directly fitted with our social purpose as an organisation*" [Lead organisation]

- 36% reported limited knowledge of ESF requirements

ESF requirements

- Ongoing challenges envisaged in the need to meet ESF requirements included:

  – Participant eligibility or evidence gathering (29%)

  – Changes to guidance or requirements (18%)

  – Bureaucracy or paperwork (15%)

  – Initial or ongoing engagement of participants (12%)

  – Project management or co-ordination of communication (11%)

  – Data collection, entry or storage (10%)

Early delivery experiences - Discussion questions

1. What challenges have you experienced so far in addressing the requirements that result from receiving ESF funding? And how have you addressed these challenges?

2. How have the ESF cross cutting themes informed your project delivery and how are you intending to report on and provide evidence for this?

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Workshop – Partnerships and delivery structures

BBO partnership profiles

- The average number of partners per BBO partnership is 23

- Number of organisations involved in different partnerships ranged from 1 and 82 organisations

BBO partnership profiles

- On average lead organisations had an existing relationship with just under half (41%) of their partners, suggesting new/expanded partnerships are a feature of BBO

- Half of the 59 lead organisations said their partnership had changed
  - Main reason was due to partners dropping out of the partnership.
  - Capacity and organisational restructures were a feature

BBO delivery structures

- Typologies of partnership approaches:
  - Lead partner acting as a managing agent/strategic lead and not likely to engage in direct delivery. Larger partnership identified for purpose of referral and delivery.

  - Lead partner engaging in delivery alongside partnership identified for purpose of referral and delivery; includes both geographical and specialist providers.

  - Lead partner likely to exclusively deliver provision, none or limited number of other partners identified.

Partnerships and delivery structures - Discussion questions

1. What delivery/partnership structures are you pursuing in your BBO project and why?

2. What challenges have you experienced so far in managing your BBO partnership? What processes, systems or actions have worked well in addressing any challenges experienced and/or to help maintain successful partnership working?

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Workshop – Future BBO learning and networking

BBO Learning and networking

- Aims of the learning strand:

  – Share findings and learning with BBO grant holders, so they can use this learning to improve their own project delivery.

  – To expand this learning to other stakeholders outside of the grant holder network.

BBO Learning and networking

- Networking groups – thematic/geographic

  – Groups to participate in learning workshops, webinars, one-to-one peer learning

- Learning papers, evidence reviews and case studies

- Online community

  – Website

  – Closed discussion group (Yammer)

- User group

Learning and networking - Discussion questions

1. **What are your preferences for networking and learning?**

The tiles on your table have a range of learning activities. The blank tiles are for you to provide your own suggestions.

Use the tiles to create a diamond, with your most-preferred activities at the top, and least preferred at the bottom. You won't be able to use all the tiles, so you'll have to exclude some. Use at least one of the blank tiles, with your own suggestion.

Do this for 10 minutes. We'll then spend the next 10 minutes feeding back to the rest of the group.

Learning and networking - Discussion questions

2. What should be key themes for evidence reviews and learning papers?

Use the flip chart paper on your table to come up with a set of themes you would like the evidence reviews and learning papers to focus on.

Do this for 10 minutes. We'll then spend the next 10 minutes feeding back to the rest of the group.

Learning and networking - Discussion questions

2. What should be key themes for evidence reviews and learning papers?

Target groups	Themes	Delivery approaches
• Older people • Young people / NEET • Women	• Financial & digital • Social enterprise/self-employment • Evidencing impact	• In-work support • Holistic support • Community-led interventions