



European Social Fund (England) 2014 – 2020

East of England ESF Contract Area (ECA)

Regional Annex

Activity Hubs

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Version 1.0

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To be read in conjunction with the CFO Activity Hubs National Specification.

Activity Hubs

East of England ESF Contract Area (ECA) – Regional Annex

1. Programme Aim

- 1.1 The Hub programme will have dual aims – to increase effective engagement with mainstream or core services and to encourage participation in activities to assist individuals to lead law abiding lives.
- 1.2 CFO Hubs should represent a safe space where participants can, and importantly want to engage in a range of activity. There should be no statutory or any other form of compulsion and as such the Hubs should not present as authoritarian, rather the user experience should be consistent with that of a community centre, youth club, creative hub or social club with lots of engaging social, creative and group activities readily available.

2. Activity Hub Delivery Requirements

- 2.1 The HMPPS CFO Activity Hub Model will focus on engagement of participants at risk of re-offending following release and those serving community sentences. Emphasis will be on effective targeting of the most appropriate participants, who are unlikely to benefit from other services as a result of facing complex barriers.
- 2.2 The Provision will be located in the community, involving local organisations to offer a structured and individually tailored package of support that will be delivered by designated Provider Support Workers. These Hubs will complement other existing and planned available provision. The ultimate aim is to reduce an individual's long-term dependency on cross-Departmental provision and reduce recidivism. The aims of the Provision are to;
 - Complement and add value to existing Provision;
 - Enhance engagement with the priority groups that often do not access mainstream funding;
 - Support those that are not fully assisted by existing employment programmes;
 - Improve employability skills and work readiness activities;
 - Achieve sustained employment outcomes for disadvantaged people that face

- multiple barriers to work;
- Reduce and remove barriers to community reintegration;
- Increase participation in the labour market and thereby improve social inclusion and mobility.

3. Wider Regional Considerations

3.1 The second largest English region in terms of both area and population, the East of England is a region of contrast. Most of the region's population reside in the southern counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex, containing the urban areas of Luton, Southend-on-Sea, Basildon, Chelmsford and Stevenage. Many of the residents of the southern reaches of the East of England region fall within the London commuter belt, and commute out-of-region for work. To the north, the East of England becomes more rural, with the major settlements being Peterborough, Norwich, Ipswich and Cambridge. Together with the East Midlands, the East of England is predicted to have a higher rate of population growth in the coming years than other areas of the UK - particularly in the older age groups.

3.2 In a socio-economic context, the East of England is prosperous with one of the largest share of jobs in the country. Compared to other English regions and Wales, the East of England has comparatively high rates of employment, a low proportion of jobless households, and a low proportion of areas deemed as deprived. The East of England also has the lowest recorded crime rate of the English regions and Wales.

3.3 Although the East of England has many efficacious qualities as a region, this conceals the difficult circumstances faced by offenders in the region. Of those participants worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, offenders worked with in the East of England are observed to have particular issues, which although common throughout the national cohort are more prevalent among those in the East of England. Participants worked with in custody are less likely to have suitable accommodation to go back to after release compared to those participants worked with in other areas. Other housing related issues such as rent arrears and closing tenancy are also comparatively high in the East of England. In both the community and custody, participants worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme are observed as being less likely to have support from family/friends, and a comparatively high proportion have outstanding debts and/or fines. Finally, participants worked with in custody in the East of England are more likely to have basic educational needs (such as numeracy and literacy), and more likely to be a care leaver than custodial participants worked with in other English regions.

3.4 A dissimilarity of note between the East of England and the rest of the country, specifically in the northern parts of the region, is the dominance of agriculture. The northern parts of the region have large areas used for vegetable production, and a disproportionately large number of food processing businesses can be found in the region. This is pertinent as food

processing occupations have proven accessible to participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme. The East of England's relatively large agricultural sector will also create many low-skilled temporary/seasonal employment opportunities which should be considered prudently.

4. East of England Stakeholders & Partnerships

4.1 Importance is placed upon on the holding of Stakeholder/ Partnership Meetings supported by information sharing protocols as these arrangements can prevent service provision from being duplicated, as well as acting as a means to co-ordinate and develop support to both enhance provision and make best use of resources.

Statutory Agencies

National Probation Service (NPS) South East Division

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315752/NPS-south-east-division-map.pdf

East of England Community Rehabilitation Company's (CRCs)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315721/CRC-area-map.pdf

Norfolk & Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company

<https://www.norfolksuffolkcrc.co.uk/home.html>

Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company

<https://www.benchcrc.org.uk/home.html>

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

4.2 The East of England CFO ECA encompasses several LEPs – New Anglia, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Hertfordshire, South East and South East Midlands (SEMLEP); who are responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities of their respective European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to support economic development and growth. In addition to HMPPS CFO, the majority of LEPs secured additional funding to run up until 2023. Information pertaining to each LEP with links to their respective ESIF strategies can be found via the European Funding Network.¹

¹ <http://www.europeanfundingnetwork.eu>

New Anglia	https://newanglia.co.uk/
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/
Hertfordshire	https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/
South East	http://www.southeastlep.com/
South East Midlands (SEMLEP)	https://www.semlep.com/

CFO3 Prime Provider

The Shaw Trust
<https://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/>
<https://www.co-financing.org/>

Prison Education Framework (PEF) Provider

People Plus
<https://peopleplus.co.uk/justice/>

5. Alignment

- 5.1 Participants can be referred by any agency, including prisons, Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), National Probation Service (NPS), Prison Education Framework (PEF) providers, other ESF providers (including CFO3 and self-referral).
- 5.2 The expectation will be that referrals will be focused on those individuals not successfully engaging with statutory activity, or those for whom additional support would be beneficial alongside existing support.
- 5.3 Only activity which complements Offender Management arrangements and is endorsed by Probation will be funded. All CFO Hub provision will be required to fit within Probation Reform measures and must not duplicate or replicate mainstream activity – this is an ESF requirement. Processes and protocols currently in place to manage existing CFO3 contracts will be implemented to ensure that all activity adds value and is complementary.

6. Identification of Potential Participants

- 6.1 The Provider is responsible for identifying Participants (based on agreed eligibility criteria listed in 7.1) and should make links with other local organisations including the National Probation Service to market the Provision within the ECA, ensuring they maximise opportunities in order to achieve sufficient Participant numbers.
- 6.2 This Provision is voluntary and suitable applicants should be identified using

different sources including but not limited to:

- Provider recruitment;
- HMPPS
- Community and voluntary sector organisations;
- Local Authorities;
- GPs / Health workers;
- Self-referrals;
- National Careers Service;
- Adult Education and Community Learning Providers.

7. Eligibility

7.1 The general eligibility requirements for the CFO programme have been agreed with the ESF Managing Authority and HMPPS. All enrolments must be:

- Resident in the UK with permission to work documentation as appropriate
- Unemployed or economically inactive
- Over 18 years of age
- Serving a community sentence or be under supervision on licence

7.2 It is the Providers responsibility to check Participants are eligible to take part in this Provision. The Provider must ensure they have robust systems in place to perform the eligibility check. The Provider must obtain evidence as necessary to confirm eligibility for ESF purposes.

8. Priority Groups

8.1 Priority Groups that will be targeted across **the East of England** are:

- People from minority ethnic communities;
- People with disabilities and health conditions, including those linked to the misuse of drugs/alcohol;
- Over 50s;
- Ex-service personnel;
- Women

8.2 The Provider will be expected to demonstrate how enrolment processes will target Participants from the priority groups specified above.

9. Financial Allocation and Throughput

9.1 Set out below, are the maximum budget and minimum volumes for this contract. Providers should note that maximum contract values are fixed and HMPPS does not guarantee volumes. Budgets must be submitted for the total contract.

9.2 The financial allocation for the East of England is **£3,312,500**

	Category of Region	SL1 – Enrolments	SL2 – Human/ Citizenship	SL3 – Community & Social	SL4 – Interventions & Services
East of England £3,312,500	Total	1318	1280	2560	640
Hub 1	More Developed	1318	1280	2560	640

Table 1: Service Levels required per Hub

Demographic Targets (Based on Enrolments)

	Category of Region	Over 50	Female	Disabled	Ethnic Minorities
Hub 1	More Developed	105	132	316	132

Table 2: Minimum demographic split expected

9.3 All targets are ring-fenced and must be achieved in each individual Hub (or associated satellite Hubs). Targets, overachievement and underachievement cannot be switched or balanced between Hubs.

9.4 Demographic targets have been allocated based on modelling from the existing ESF HMPPS community programmes. The number of over 50, female, disabled and ethnic minority participants is the minimum expected.

10. Delivery Location

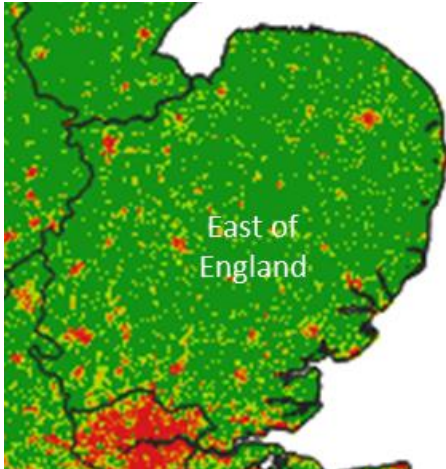


Figure 1: ESF region designation

10.1 The entire region is classed as a More Developed region. The region comprises of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

10.2 Due to the dispersed nature of offenders' home address, this region lends itself to having a satellite hubs model – with a main Hub and two satellite Hubs servicing the contract.

10.3 Participants are still able to attend and claim Service Level delivery and payment if their home address is outside of the region (for example, if the offender lives in London) as long as the Hub delivery takes place within the East of England.

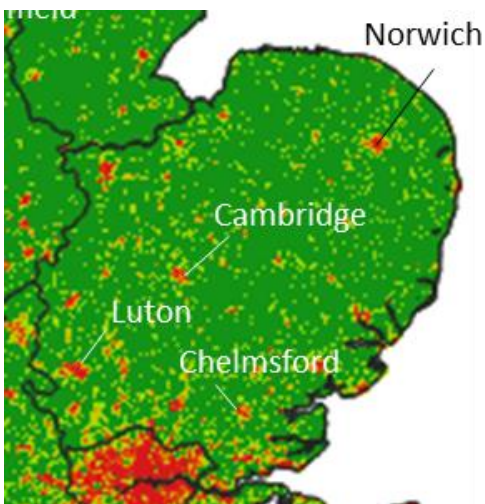


Figure 2: Concentration of eligible offenders.

Key: Red areas denote a high concentration of offenders (based on home address); yellow areas denote a medium concentration of offenders; green area a low concentration of offenders

10.4 Analysis of offender home addresses for ESF eligible offenders over a 30 month period (all those under supervision in the community between 1st July 2017 and 31st Dec 2019) has given an estimate of the number offenders who could potentially access a Hub. The full list is available in Appendix A.

Category of Region	Location	Eligible Offenders
More Developed	Peterborough	2,586
More Developed	Luton	2,454
More Developed	Southend-on-Sea	1,750
More Developed	Basildon	1,676
More Developed	Thurrock	1,484
More Developed	Norwich	1,474
More Developed	Ipswich	1,471
More Developed	Bedford	1,417
More Developed	Colchester	1,343
More Developed	Tendring	1,263
More Developed	Central Bedfordshire	1,252
More Developed	Great Yarmouth	1,090
More Developed	Chelmsford	1,058
More Developed	Huntingdonshire	1,044
More Developed	Fenland	1,001

Table 3: Most densely populated locations for ESF eligible offenders

11. Appendices

Appendix A

Region	Category of Region	Local Authority	Eligible Offenders
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Peterborough	2,586
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Luton	2,454
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Southend-on-Sea	1,750
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Basildon	1,676
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Thurrock	1,484
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Norwich	1,474
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Ipswich	1,471
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Bedford	1,417
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Colchester	1,343
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Tendring	1,263
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Central Bedfordshire	1,252
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Great Yarmouth	1,090
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Chelmsford	1,058
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Huntingdonshire	1,044
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Fenland	1,001
Non-transition Area	More Developed	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	978
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Cambridge	830
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Braintree	829
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Harlow	814
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Waveney	809
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Dacorum	803
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Epping Forest	753
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Breckland	735
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Welwyn Hatfield	683
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Watford	673
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Stevenage	662
Non-transition Area	More Developed	South Cambridgeshire	638
Non-transition Area	More Developed	St Edmundsbury	629
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Broxbourne	625
Non-transition Area	More Developed	North Hertfordshire	606
Non-transition Area	More Developed	St Albans	547
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Castle Point	542
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Hertsmere	533
Non-transition Area	More Developed	East Hertfordshire	529
Non-transition Area	More Developed	South Norfolk	518
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Suffolk Coastal	515
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Broadland	435

Region	Category of Region	Local Authority	Eligible Offenders
Non-transition Area	More Developed	East Cambridgeshire	391
Non-transition Area	More Developed	North Norfolk	385
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Forest Heath	373
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Brentwood	370
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Rochford	360
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Mid Suffolk	358
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Maldon	339
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Babergh	329
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Uttlesford	298