



## **European Social Fund (England) 2014 – 2020**

### **South West 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

### South West 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 largest English region in terms of area, the South West is the most rural region in England. Based on the proportion of residents living in rural areas, the South West is also more rural than Wales. Although the South West contains several large towns and cities, such as Bristol, most inhabitants live in areas classified by the ONS 2001 Area Classification as 'rural economies', 'small town communities' or 'resorts and retirement'. Many parts of the South West are somewhat geographically isolated from the rest of the country, with larger settlements of Plymouth and Bournemouth not being serviced by the motorway network. The remote and rural nature of large parts of the South West mean that the average journey distance for residents is higher than average, and a greater proportion of journeys are taken using privately owned transport. This is particularly pertinent as less than 30% of participants currently worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme in the South West have a valid driving licence, and less than 40% of participants state that they have access to any form of transport.

3.2 The South West receives more domestic tourism than anywhere else in the UK, providing the largest Hotel & Restaurant sector in the country (both in terms of employment and economy). The region is also attractive to retirees, giving the South West the highest proportion of those of pensionable age in the country. This coupled with a high life expectancy means that Health & Social Care jobs are more prevalent than the national average. This is of relevance as both the Hotel & Restaurant and Health & Social Care sectors have both proven accessible to participants during the current HMPPS CFO3 programme.

3.3 Although unemployment is generally low in the South West, patterns of working are quite different to the rest of the UK. Workers in the South West are more likely to be self-employed, work part-time and/or work multiple jobs. Deprivation is also generally low in the South West. Of those areas identified as deprived, the most common reason is barriers to housing and services.

3.4 The proportion of residents admitting to drug-use is comparable to the rest of the country, but the use of Class A and stimulant drugs is higher than the national average. It follows that participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme were more likely to have substance misuse issues (including alcohol) than participants worked with in other English regions.

3.5 The South West has an older age structure than the national average, and this can also be seen in the age structure of the participants currently worked with on the HMPPS CFO3 programme. Some of the potential barriers created by age are observed to be more prevalent in participants worked with in the

South West than in the other English regions. Health issues, mental health issues and disability are all more prevalent amongst the participants currently worked with on the CFO3 programme in the South West, and we find a greater proportion of participants are carers for a family member or friend and/or have dependent children.

#### **4. South West Stakeholders & Partnerships**

4.1 Importance is placed upon 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 West Division

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315758/NPS-south-west-south-central-division-map.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315758/NPS-south-west-south-central-division-map.pdf)

Community Rehabilitation Company's (CRCs)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315721/CRC-area-map.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315721/CRC-area-map.pdf)

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company

<http://www.hiowcrc.co.uk/>

Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire Probation Services

<https://www.bgs.wprobationservices.co.uk/>

Dorset, Devon & Cornwall Probation Services

<https://www.ddcprobationservices.co.uk/>

##### Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

4.2 The South West CFO ECA encompasses several LEPs – Heart of the South West, Dorset, West of England, Swindon & Wiltshire and Gloucestershire (GFirst), 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

Heart of the South West LEP <https://heartofswlep.co.uk/>  
Dorset LEP <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/>  
West of England <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/lep/>  
Swindon & Wiltshire <https://swlep.co.uk/>  
Gloucestershire (GFirst) <https://www.gfirstlep.com/>

#### CFO3 Prime Provider

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

#### Prison Education Framework (PEF) Provider

Novus  
<https://www.novus.ac.uk/>

## **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 South West** 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 South West is **£3,312,500**

|                          | Category of Region | SL1 – Enrolments | SL2 – Human/ Citizenship | SL3 – Community & Social | SL4 – Interventions & Services |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| South West<br>£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     | 79     | 290      | 171               |

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

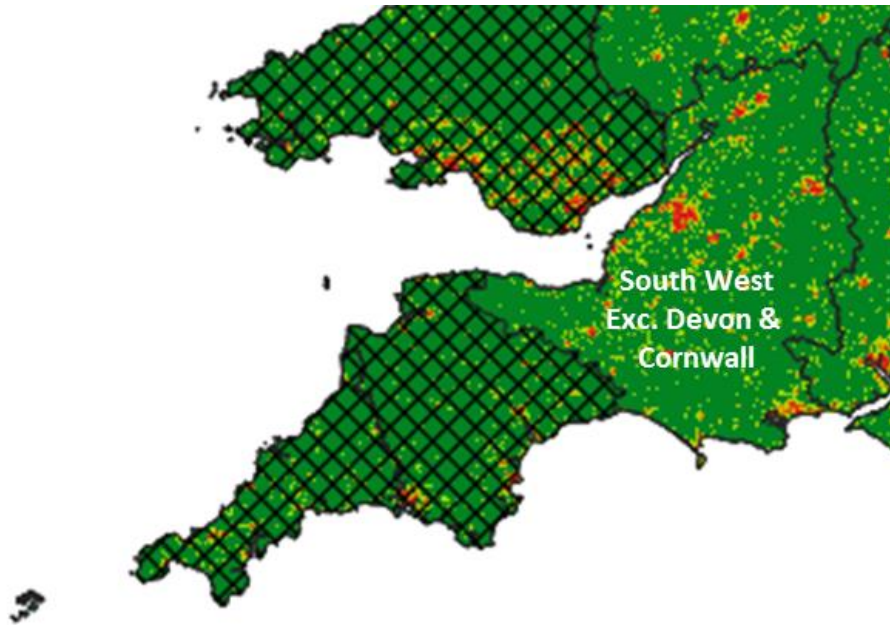


Figure 1: ESF region designation

- 10.1 Activity Hubs can only be located in the South West Transition region which excludes Devon and Cornwall (which is designated as a Transition and Less Developed region respectively). A Hub (nor satellite Hubs) cannot be located in the Transition nor Less Developed regions; therefore a Hub (nor satellite Hubs) cannot be located in Plymouth or Torbay nor in Newquay, for example. The region comprises of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Bristol, Avon and Summerset and Dorset.
- 10.2 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 the Wales or the South West Transition region) as long as the Hub delivery takes place within the South West More Developed region.

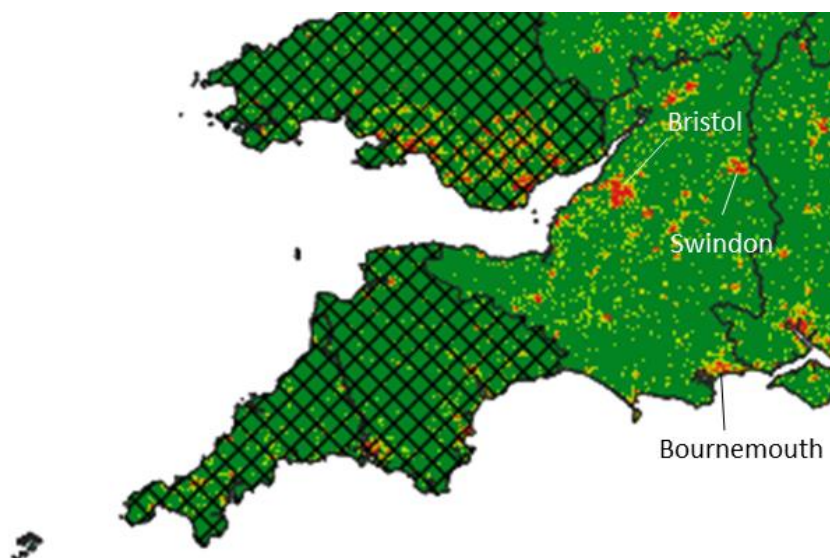


Figure 2: Concentration of eligible offenders.

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

10.3 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     | Bristol, City of             | 5,192              |
| More Developed     | Wiltshire                    | 2,539              |
| More Developed     | Swindon                      | 2,032              |
| More Developed     | Bournemouth                  | 1,803              |
| More Developed     | South Gloucestershire        | 1,660              |
| More Developed     | Gloucester                   | 1,456              |
| More Developed     | North Somerset               | 1,377              |
| More Developed     | Bath and North East Somerset | 1,000              |

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     | Bristol, City of             | 5,192              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Wiltshire                    | 2,539              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Swindon                      | 2,032              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Bournemouth                  | 1,803              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | South Gloucestershire        | 1,660              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Gloucester                   | 1,456              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | North Somerset               | 1,377              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Bath and North East Somerset | 1,000              |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | South Somerset               | 888                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Poole                        | 859                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Sedgemoor                    | 813                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Cheltenham                   | 772                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Taunton Deane                | 727                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Mendip                       | 570                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Weymouth and Portland        | 545                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Stroud                       | 524                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Tewkesbury                   | 431                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | West Dorset                  | 387                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Forest of Dean               | 367                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Cotswold                     | 278                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | North Dorset                 | 276                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | East Dorset                  | 256                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Christchurch                 | 234                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | Purbeck                      | 214                |
| Non-transition Area | More Developed     | West Somerset                | 165                |