**Request for Proposal Document**

**THE SUPPLY OF: IPS/SEQF Services under Connect to Work in Cumbria England**

Deadline for receipt of the completed Response Document is

**2:00PM**

**17th September 2025**

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All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Thank you for your interest in working with us**

**Connect to Work**

Connect to Work aims to address 'Hidden Unemployment' through a collaborative, locally driven approach, helping local communities to unlock their potential and contribute to both local and national growth. Quality employment is known to positively impact physical and mental health, providing income, social interaction, and a sense of purpose.

Connect to Work is a voluntary program designed to tackle economic inactivity by providing targeted support to individuals based on their specific circumstances. It focuses on helping disabled people, those with health conditions, and individuals facing complex barriers to employment. The program uses two key Supported Employment models: the Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS). SEQF follows the 'place, train, and maintain' approach, ensuring participants are placed in suitable jobs, trained, and supported to maintain employment. IPS, integrates supported employment within health services/settings, particularly for those with severe mental illness or substance dependence. Connect to Work builds on existing Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded programs and aims to support around 81,000 participants annually in England, with additional places funded in Greater Manchester, West Midlands and Wales. Funding is being devolved through grants to Lead Accountable Bodies across the UK who will be responsible for designing locally needed solutions that align with model fidelity with a projected 75% of places for IPS and 25% for SEQF.

Eligibility for Connect to Work primarily includes individuals who are economically inactive within priority groups and wish to work. It also supports those at risk of losing their jobs who would struggle to re-enter the workforce without assistance. Participants must be disabled, have a work-limiting health condition and or belong to specified disadvantaged groups, such as offenders, carers, homeless individuals, former armed forces members, and victims of domestic abuse, among others.

**Connect to Work in Cumbria**

Cumberland Council is the local authority leading the procurement of Connect to Work Cumbria (CtW) program for Cumbria on behalf of Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. The CtW service is to be delivered, equitably, across the whole of Cumbria so that every resident has equal access/opportunity to same level and quality of service regardless of place.

Cumberland Council have gone to market on behalf of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council with a tender opportunity for IPS and SEQF. The opportunity is to deliver both IPS and SEQF across the whole of Cumbria as **one lot.**

**Our Commissioning Approach**

Fedcap are looking to submit a tender for Connect to Work in Cumbria and are looking for potential delivery partners to be named in our submission. Our approach is to embrace local capacity to deliver IPS and/or SEQF services to eligible Cumbria residents and we seek partners who can bring local knowledge and relationships alongside understanding and experience of supported employment delivery models. Interested organisations should complete the below Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding working with us on this opportunity.

As part of our commitment to supporting inclusive economic growth and fostering diversity within our supply chain, we particularly welcome submissions from local based/operating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and/or Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs). We recognise and value the innovation and local expertise that SMEs/VCSEs bring and encourage their participation in this opportunity.

**Timetable of activity**

| **Activity** | **Dates** |
| --- | --- |
| RFP Issued  | 10 September 2025 |
| Deadline for Submission  | 17 September 2025 at 12noon |
| Submission review | 18 and 19 September 2025  |
| Notification of successful responders | 19 September 2025 |

**Response Questions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name  |  | Score |
| Registered Company Name if different to Company Name |  | N/A |
| Registered Company Address  |  | N/A |
| Registered Company Number or Registered Charity Number |  | N/A |
| Primary Contact Name, Job Title, Email Address and Phone Number  |  | N/A |
| Organisation Website |  | N/A |
| Company type (Public, Private, Charity, Social Enterprise etc.) |  | N/A |
| Date Organisation Established |  | N/A |
| Are you a member of any sector specific membership bodies? e.g., ERSA, IEP, BASE, etc. |  | N/A |
| Is your Organisation a Small/Medium Enterprise (SME)? |  | N/A |
| Please outline your recent experience delivering IPS and/or SEQF employment support models.**(200 words = 5 points)** |  | Max 5 points |
| Was the above delivered in the Cumbria area? Please provide examples**(100 words max = 5 points)** |  | Max 5 points |
| Was the above delivered outside of the Cumbria area? Please provide examples**(100 words max = 2 points)** |  | Max 2 points |
| Please outline how your organisation will deliver social value through Connect to Work and actions you will take to promote economic wellbeing for participants and communities within the Lot areas. **(200 words max = 3 points)** |  | Max 3 points |
| Acceptance onto our supply chain will be subject to due diligence checks and confirmation that you have the following policies, processes or procedures in place or would be willing to be subject to ours for the period of the contract. Signature and submission of the document will be taken as confirmation that you agree to have any necessary checks undertaken and agreement to provide and evidence requested with respect to: | * Financial performance and standing (including credit checks)
* Safeguarding and Prevent
* Delivery accreditation or professional memberships (where applicable)
* Cyber Security and data protection
* Health and Safety
* Social Value
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
* Modern Slavery
* Fraud Prevention including Corruption and Bribery
* Registration with the Government’s Central Digital Platform (i.e. share code & supplier information download)
 | N/A |

**Please indicate below which accreditations/standards you have been measured against (not scored)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Provision** | **Audited** | **Date of last audit** | **Audit outcome** |
| **SEQF** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **IPS** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **OFSTED** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **Matrix** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **CQC** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |
| **Disability Confident** | **Yes / No / Not held** |  |  |

**Please indicate below which geographical regions you currently deliver in (not scored)**

| **UK Region** | **Check areas in scope** | **If you only provide services in a specific location within these areas, please provide details below** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Allerdale  |[ ]   |
| Copeland  |[ ]   |
| Barrow in Furness |[ ]   |
| Carlisle  |[ ]   |
| Eden  |[ ]   |
| South Lakes  |[ ]   |

**I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted in this document are correct.**

|  |
| --- |
| FORM COMPLETED BY :- |
| Name |  |
| Job Title |  |
| Date |  |
| Telephone Number |  |
| Signature |  |

For the purposes of this electronically transmitted document, it is sufficient that typed names are permitted rather than signatures. A typed name will be deemed to have been signed by the person stated with the necessary responsibility required within the organisation.

All information you give us is deemed confidential.

Thank you once again for your interest in wanting to work with us.

**Please note – it is up to you to update us if the information you have given changes, or if you do not want us to keep your details on file anymore, please contact partnerships@fedcap.org.uk**