



European Social Fund (England) 2014 – 2020

North West ESF Contract Area (ECA)

Regional Annex

Activity Hubs

April 2020

Version 1.0

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

Activity Hubs

North 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 As a region, the North West has the highest population density outside of London and is dominated by the large conurbations of Merseyside and Greater Manchester. The region is also extremely varied, containing some of the least densely populated areas in the country, found to the north of the region in Cumbria. The North West has the slowest population growth of the English regions, with the working-age population predicted to decrease in the coming years. Compared to the other English regions and Wales, the North West has a relatively high proportion of non-white residents, however their distribution within the region varies greatly - more than a fifth of the region's non-white residents live in the Manchester Metropolitan District for example.
- 3.2 Economically, the North West region is the largest contributor to the UK's manufacturing industry. This is of relevance as manufacturing and processing occupations have proven particularly accessible to participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme. Comparing the North West to the other English regions, the North West has the highest proportion of housing rented from registered social landlords, such as Housing Associations, and by comparing house prices to incomes, the North West is found to be the most affordable place to live in England.
- 3.3 Despite these potential advantages, the North West is one of the most deprived areas of England and Wales. Deprivation is mostly concentrated in the large cities of Liverpool and Manchester, but is also apparent in many of the region's outlying towns. Employment rates in the North West are among the lowest in the country, with a high proportion of workless households. Additionally, the North West has one of the highest proportions of working-age residents without qualifications (behind the neighbouring North East and West Midlands).
- 3.4 Looking at participants worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme in the North West, we observe several characteristics that pose an increased barrier to employment when compared to other English regions. On starting the HMPPS CFO3 programme, participants in the North West are less likely to know how to disclose their offence, less likely to have an up-to-date CV and are generally less willing to consider alternative working patterns such as self-employment. Additionally, we observe that those worked with in the North West are more likely to request the aid of a mentor (particular when serving a community sentence), and are more likely to be a lone parent. During the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, there has been an increase in relationship issues being identified as a barrier to progression.

- 3.5 The North West has one of lowest life expectancies in the UK, and drug use is higher in the North West than in any other English region. It follows that of those worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, health issues, mental health issues and disability are more prevalent in the North West than the national average.

4. North 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) North West Division

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315748/NPS-north-west-division-map.pdf

North West Community Rehabilitation Company's (CRCs)

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

Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company

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

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company

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

Cumbria & Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company

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

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

- 4.2 The North West CFO ECA encompasses several LEPs – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire & Liverpool City Region; that 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

Cheshire & Warrington <http://www.871candwep.co.uk/>
Cumbria <https://www.thecumbrialep.co.uk/>
Greater Manchester <http://gmlep.com/>
Lancashire <https://lancashirelep.co.uk/>
Liverpool City Region <https://www.liverpoollep.org/>

CFO3 Prime Provider

Achieve North West
<https://www.careerconnect.org.uk/Achieve-Northwest-Connect-New-i232.html>
<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.

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

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 North 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. For areas with multiple Hubs, budgets must be submitted per Hub as well as for total contract.

9.2 The financial allocation for the North West is **£9,937,500**

	Category of Region	SL1 – Enrolments	SL2 – Human/ Citizenship	SL3 – Community & Social	SL4 – Interventions & Services
North West £9,937,500	Total	3954	3840	7680	1920
Hub 1	More Developed	1318	1280	2560	640
Hub 2	More Developed	1318	1280	2560	640
Hub 3	Transition	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	66	79	290	211
Hub 2	More Developed	66	79	290	211
Hub 3	Transition	66	132	290	66

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. The targets are independent to each other. 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

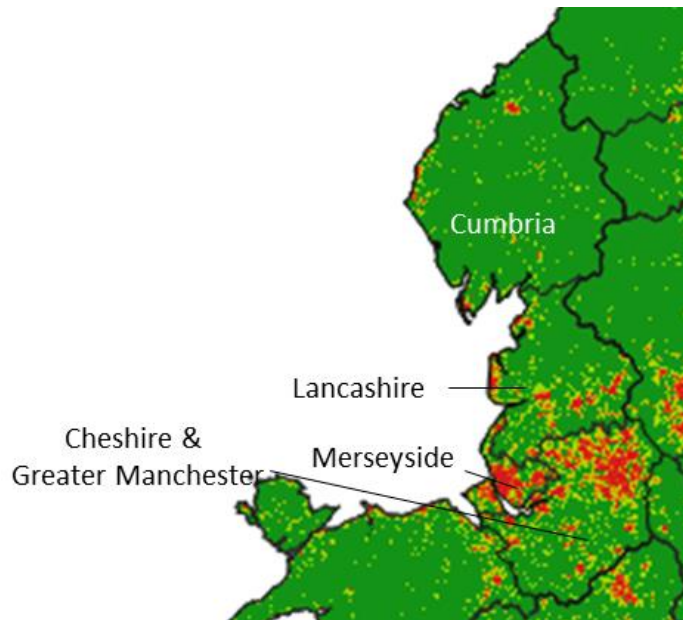


Figure 1: ESF region designation.

- 10.1 Cumbria, Lancashire and Merseyside are Transition regions; Cheshire and Greater Manchester are More Developed regions.
- 10.2 Two Activity Hubs must be located within Cheshire and Greater Manchester area.
- 10.3 One Activity Hub must be located in Cumbria, Lancashire and/or Merseyside. There is no requirement for the Activity Hub to span and service all Transition regions. A hub (and/or satellite Hubs) in just one region is perfectly acceptable.
- 10.4 Participants are still eligible if their home address is outside of the region (for example, if the offender lives in Wales) as long as the Hub delivery takes place within the North West.

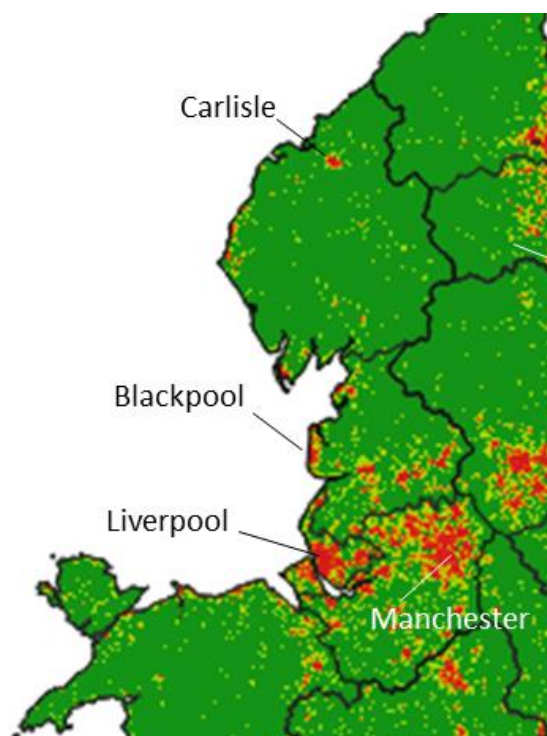


Figure 2: Concentration of eligible offenders.

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

10.5 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	Manchester	7,284
More Developed	Cheshire West and Chester	3,407
More Developed	Cheshire East	2,845
More Developed	Salford	2,903
More Developed	Bolton	2,883
More Developed	Wigan	2,882
More Developed	Rochdale	2,549
Transition	Liverpool	8,200
Transition	Wirral	3,316
Transition	Sefton	2,853
Transition	Carlisle	1,341
Transition	Blackpool	2,426

Table 3: Most densely populated locations for ESF eligible offenders

11. Appendices

Appendix A

Region	Category of Region	Local Authority	Eligible Offenders
Cumbria	Transition	Carlisle	1341
Cumbria	Transition	Allerdale	883
Cumbria	Transition	Barrow-in-Furness	849
Cumbria	Transition	Copeland	638
Cumbria	Transition	South Lakeland	558
Cumbria	Transition	Eden	286
Lancashire	Transition	Blackpool	2426
Lancashire	Transition	Blackburn with Darwen	1925
Lancashire	Transition	Preston	1831
Lancashire	Transition	Lancaster	1157
Lancashire	Transition	Burnley	1161
Lancashire	Transition	Hyndburn	976
Lancashire	Transition	Pendle	829
Lancashire	Transition	Wyre	740
Lancashire	Transition	Chorley	731
Lancashire	Transition	South Ribble	612
Lancashire	Transition	West Lancashire	639
Lancashire	Transition	Rossendale	486
Lancashire	Transition	Fylde	484
Lancashire	Transition	Ribble Valley	198
Merseyside	Transition	Liverpool	8200
Merseyside	Transition	Sefton	2853
Merseyside	Transition	Wirral	3316
Merseyside	Transition	Knowsley	2178
Merseyside	Transition	St. Helens	1928
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Manchester	7284
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Cheshire West and Chester	3407
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Cheshire East	2845
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Wigan	2882
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Bolton	2883
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Salford	2903
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Rochdale	2549
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Stockport	2142
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Oldham	2551
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Tameside	2209
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Warrington	1952
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Halton	1650
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Bury	1817
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Trafford	1471