



European Social Fund (England) 2014 – 2020

North East ESF Contract Area (ECA)

Regional Annex

Activity Hubs

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

Activity Hubs

North East 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 North East is the smallest English region in terms of population, and is the smallest English region in area after London. The majority of the population are concentrated in urban areas, which are roughly split into two conurbations - the Tyne & Wear conurbation including Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead and Sunderland, and the Teesside conurbation including Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees.

3.2 Socio-economically, the North East is characterised by high rates of unemployment, high rates of economic inactivity due to long-term sickness, and lower rates of pay. However, over the last two decades the gap between the North East's employment rate and the national average has been roughly getting smaller. The North East has a dominant manufacturing sector, which is of relevance as participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme have found manufacturing and processing occupations particularly accessible. Manufacturing occupations within the North East tend to be relatively specialised geographically. For example, almost half of those working in manufacturing in Sunderland work in the motor vehicle industry.

3.3 The North East is one of the most deprived areas of the country, with a third of the population living in a deprived area. Areas of deprivation are generally concentrated in the large urban settlements within the region. The North East has the highest household crime rate in England, and has one of the lowest life expectancies, comparable to the North West. Looking at those worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, we observe that participants in the North East are less likely to have a driving licence and less likely to have a current CV on starting compared to the other English regions. We have also observed a marked increase in relationship issues in the North East during the current HMPPS CFO3 programme.

3.4 A comparatively high proportion of the working-age population in the North East have no qualifications. This is reflected in the participants worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, where North East participants are less likely to have qualifications when starting on the project. Conversely, the North East region has the highest proportion of key stage 4 pupils gaining 5 or more good GCSE passes, and of those worked with on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme, participants in the North East were less likely to require help with basic educational needs and/or learning difficulties.

4. North East 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 East Division

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315745/NPS-north-east-division-map.pdf

North East Community Rehabilitation Company's (CRCs)

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

Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company

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

Durham & Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

<https://dtvcrc.co.uk/>

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

4.2 The North East CFO ECA encompasses two LEPs – North East (NELEP) and Tees Valley; 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

North East (NELEP) <https://www.northeastlep.co.uk/>

Tees Valley <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/>

CFO3 Prime Provider

APM

<https://apm-uk.co.uk/personal/finding-work/cfo3>

<https://www.co-financing.org/>

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

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 North East** 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 North East is **£3,312,500**

	Category of Region	SL1 – Enrolments	SL2 – Human/ Citizenship	SL3 – Community & Social	SL4 – Interventions & Services
North East £3,312,500	Total	1318	1280	2560	640
Hub 1	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	Transition	66	132	290	40

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

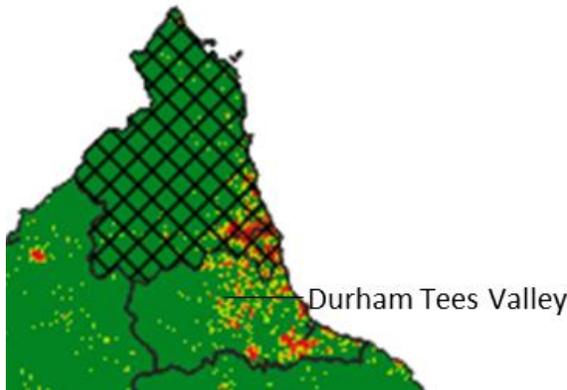


Figure 1: ESF region designation

10.1 Activity Hubs can only be located in the North East Transition region which excludes Northumbria and Tyne and Wear (which is designated as a More Developed region). A Hub (nor satellite Hubs) cannot be located in the More Developed region; therefore a Hub (nor satellite Hubs) cannot be located in Newcastle or Sunderland, for example. The region comprises of Durham and Teesside.

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 the North East More Developed region) as long as the Hub delivery takes place within the North East Transition region.

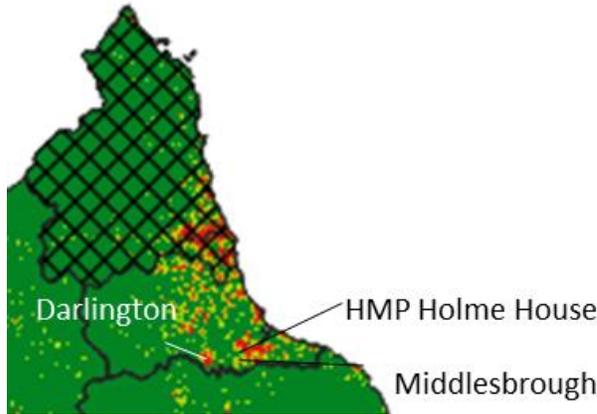


Figure 2: Concentration of eligible offenders.

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

10.4 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.

Category of Region	Location	Eligible Offenders
Transition	County Durham	4,149
Transition	Middlesbrough	2,270
Transition	Stockton-on-Tees	1,975
Transition	Redcar and Cleveland	1,449
Transition	Hartlepool	1,219
Transition	Darlington	1,035

Table 3: Most densely populated locations for ESF eligible offenders

10.5 The North East Transition region also contains the Veterans Hub located in HMP Holme House. Liaison with the participants on the Veterans Wing as well as the provider of the Veterans Hub will be crucial to the delivery of the programme. Participants started on the Activity Hubs programme within HMP Holme House can be worked with on release inside the North East Activity Hub(s), however, activities from service levels that have already been completed in HMP Holme House cannot be claimed for payment again (this includes SL1 – Enrolments). See Veteran Hub Annex for additional information.