



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

### **West Midlands 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

### West Midlands 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 Traditionally, manufacturing has been a major industry in the West Midlands. However, recent years have seen a transition in the West Midlands from a manufacturing based economy to a service based economy. Since 1996, the number of jobs in manufacturing has halved, although the West Midlands still has a prominent manufacturing sector compared to other areas of the UK. This is of relevance, as manufacturing and processing occupations have proven particularly accessible to participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme.

3.2 Of the English regions, the West Midlands has the highest proportion of working-age residents without any qualifications. This trend is also observed in the participants currently worked with on the HMPPS CFO3 programme. Participants worked with in the West Midlands are less likely to have qualifications and less likely to have computer skills than those participants worked with in the other English regions.

3.3 In the West Midlands, the unemployment rate is high and the employment rate is low, compared to the other English regions. The Office of National Statistics Regional Trends report 'Portrait of the West Midlands' (2011), provides evidence to suggest that the West Midlands has been hit harder than average by the economic downturn of 2008/09. A potential mitigating factor for our client group is that participants on the current HMPPS CFO3 programme in the West Midlands are more willing to consider shift work and/or self-employment than participants worked with in other areas.

3.4 The West Midlands has the highest proportion of non-white residents outside of London, with a predominant proportion of non-white residents stating themselves as being of Asian ethnic origin. It follows that proficiency in English is lower than that in other English regions with the exception of London. The West Midlands is a region of contrast, containing some of the most deprived areas in the UK but also some of the least deprived. The West Midlands contains the large densely populated conurbations of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Solihull, Walsall and West Bromwich to the west, but also the sparsely populated rural areas of Shropshire and Herefordshire to the east. The West Midlands central location means there are good transport links with other regions. However, an above average proportion of workers get to work by car and the average mileage covered by public transport is one of the lowest in the UK. This is particularly pertinent as participants currently being worked with on the HMPPS CFO3 programme are less likely to have access to transport than participants worked with in many other English regions.

- 3.5 Despite what the socio-economic and demographic profile of the West Midlands may suggest, households in the West Midlands have a lower risk of being a victim of crime than in other areas, and crime against the person is also comparatively low.

#### **4. West Midlands 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) Midlands Division

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315744/NPS-midlands-division-map.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315744/NPS-midlands-division-map.pdf)

West Midlands 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)

Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company

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

Warwickshire & West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company

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

##### Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

- 4.2 The West Midlands CFO ECA encompasses several LEPs – Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire, The Marches and Worcestershire; 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>

Black Country	<a href="https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/">https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/</a>
Coventry & Warwickshire	<a href="https://www.cwlep.com/">https://www.cwlep.com/</a>
Greater Birmingham & Solihull	<a href="https://gbslep.co.uk/">https://gbslep.co.uk/</a>
Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire	<a href="https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/">https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/</a>
The Marches	<a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/</a>
Worcestershire	<a href="https://www.wlep.co.uk/">https://www.wlep.co.uk/</a>

#### CFO3 Prime Provider

Ixion Holdings  
<http://www.ixionholdings.com/>  
<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 West Midlands** 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 West Midlands is **£9,937,500**

	Category of Region	SL1 – Enrolments	SL2 – Human/ Citizenship	SL3 – Community & Social	SL4 – Interventions & Services
West Midlands £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	92	132	316	303
Hub 2	More Developed	92	132	316	303
Hub 3	Transition	66	79	290	145

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.

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 Staffordshire and Shropshire are Transition regions; the rest of West Midlands, West Mercia and Warwickshire are More Developed regions.
- 10.2 Two Activity Hubs must be located within the West Midlands (excluding Staffordshire), West Mercia (excluding Shropshire) and Warwickshire areas.
- 10.3 One Activity Hub must be located within the Staffordshire and Shropshire area. There is no requirement for the Activity Hub to span and service the entire Transition area. A Hub (and/or satellite Hubs) in just Staffordshire or just Shropshire 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 West Midlands.

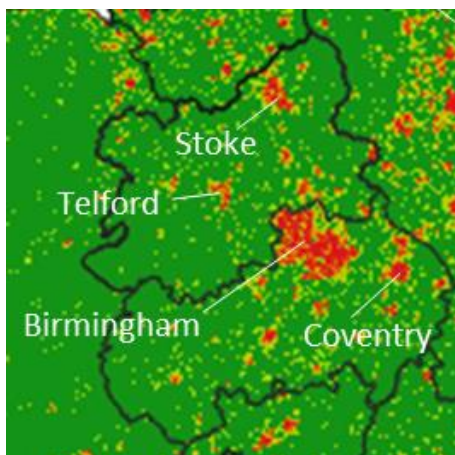


Figure 2: Concentration of eligible offenders.

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	Birmingham	13,973
More Developed	Coventry	3,668
More Developed	Sandwell	3,646
More Developed	Wolverhampton	3,601
More Developed	Walsall	3,378
More Developed	Dudley	2,491
More Developed	Solihull	1,258
More Developed	Nuneaton and Bedworth	1,244
More Developed	Herefordshire, County of	1,162
More Developed	Worcester	1,109
Transition	Stoke-on-Trent	3,378
Transition	Telford and Wrekin	1,498
Transition	Shropshire	1,324

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	Birmingham	13,973
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Coventry	3,668
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Sandwell	3,646
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Wolverhampton	3,601
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Walsall	3,378
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Dudley	2,491
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Solihull	1,258
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Nuneaton and Bedworth	1,244
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Herefordshire, County of	1,162
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Worcester	1,109
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Wyre Forest	903
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Rugby	855
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Warwick	849
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Wychavon	768
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Redditch	687
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Stratford-on-Avon	587
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Bromsgrove	456
Non-transition Area	More Developed	Malvern Hills	393
Non-transition Area	More Developed	North Warwickshire	376
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Stoke-on-Trent	3,378
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Telford and Wrekin	1,498
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Shropshire	1,324
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Newcastle-under-Lyme	934
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Stafford	875
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	East Staffordshire	841
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Cannock Chase	760
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Tamworth	565
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Staffordshire Moorlands	473
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	Lichfield	434
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Transition	South Staffordshire	273