



North of Tyne Community Led Local Development

Quarterly Progress Report

Grant Recipient:	The Recruitment Junction	
Project Name:	Ex-offenders Employment Programme	
Project Number:	R4-ESF-1015	
Period covered by this Report:	From: 1/07/22	To: 30/9/22

This progress report must contain suitable commentary on the performance and progress of the project to date and the planned activity going forward. This should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate successful delivery of the activities and outputs and if there is any slippage of performance, measures being put in place to bring the project back on track.

1. PROGRESS

Activities – Please explain what activities you carried out this quarter. This should relate back to your plans as explained in the Application Form. If there have been any delays or issues encountered in the period, these should be detailed along with measures to address them.

Each candidate enrolled has received the core assistance of a reworked CV and disclosure letter, and all who wished to attend training did so. Groupwork has not taken place due to the lack of need. Candidates are completing the programme and being placed into work in good speed.

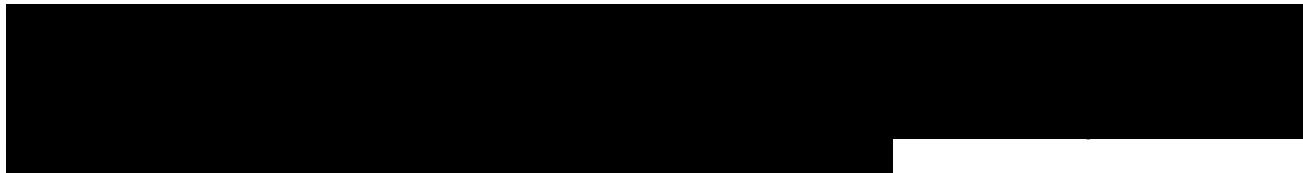
In this period of 2022, 11 unique inward referral agencies have sent us candidates – including police/probation/3rd sector referring charities/job centres/welfare-to-work providers/recovery workers. We also attended a People Plus jobs fair as a stall holder to offer candidates the opportunity to sign up to our services, gaining 14 registration forms.

In project Q6 (Q3 2022), we have so far placed 45 candidates into paid work, across all our funded streams. We continue to expand our onward employers, onboarding further construction companies and hospitality in particular.

Are there any case studies / best practice examples / achievements that you are especially proud of this quarter and you would like to share with us?



Financial Performance – Please explain project's performance in terms of actual expenditure against the profiled values contained in the Grant Agreement. Consideration should also be given to whether the project is still on track and to budget. Any expenditure slippage should be explained and justified with plans outlined on how the slippage will be addressed. Any potential overspend / underspend in the overall project budget or a request to re-profile expenditure should be flagged up here.



Outputs - Please report on the actual achievement of targets against the profile outlined within the Grant Agreement. Identify any specific issues encountered relating to measuring or evidencing the targets. Variances from the contracted profiles i.e. 'slippage' must be explained and detail provided of remedial measures to bring things back on track. Any request to re-profile project outputs should be outlined here. If you are collecting any additional outputs, please report on them here as well.

19 candidates enrolled onto the programme in the period July to September 2022, total verified outputs finished the quarter at 104.

Only 1 output is awaiting verification (TRJ to amend) and several others are awaiting upload due to additional guidance provided around justifications. The CLLD team are overall happy with our paperwork and outputs which are consistently of a high standard.

Our target, adjusted, is 122 outputs by December 2022, so that is 18 further outputs to achieve in the next quarter, which we believe is very achievable and have advised if we can exceed this target we will. We continue to work with local job centres and probation offices and advertise more widely in the area including in the prison-leaver approved premises. We also know from previous years that August/September can be quite slow, therefore we are confident we will achieve the required 122 outputs.

Match Funding – Please report on the match funding received during this quarter. Any potential changes to the funding package should also be detailed.

Match Funder	Original Contracted Value (£)	Match Funding received – original project (£)	Revised Contracted Value (£)	Match Funding received Q1-22 (£)	Match Funding received Q2-22 (£)
DWP					
Private donors					
Junction 42					
Vardy Foundation					
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust					
Watson Family Trust					
TRJ Own Resources					
Total:					

Match funding is on track, with slightly more funding than expected being received from the [REDACTED], which will reduce the funding needed from our own resources. In total, we expect match funding by the end of the project to be in line with the budget.

Equal Opportunities & Sustainable Development – Please report on the project's contribution to these cross-cutting themes in particular where there are specific project objectives relating to these themes or where the project considers it has exceeded standards.

Our entire beneficiary group consists of a highly marginalised and discriminated against group, but one which does not benefit from any legal protections against discrimination. We are confident our activities have contributed greatly towards enabling this group to access the same opportunities as the rest of society.

2. PLANNED ACTIVITY

Please report on key activities that are planned for the next quarter including any key dates or events.

Past activities

██████████ Attended 3 further prison employer events, one for ██████████ and one for ██████████ ██████████, and one for ██████████ in ██████████ ██████████

- Attended 2 job fairs with candidates, and a further job fair as a stall holder to sign up candidates
- Day spent with the Centre for Social Justice, an independent centre-right think tank supporting local charities linking with other organisations, funders and informing on policy change.
- We also supported one of our candidates into more permanent housing now he is in full time work and has passed his probation, helping him with setting up council tax and TV licence
- Whole team attended neurodiversity training to better support our candidates, as 1 in 3 in the justice system have a neurodivergent need (as opposed to 1 in 5 in the general public).

Future events planned:

- We were due to hold our employer event “Hiring Prison Leavers and Ex-Offenders across the North East” in September. This was postponed to October due to the Queen’s funeral.
- Planning is underway for our Christmas hamper event – last year we delivered 62 hampers to support candidates, and we are looking to match this again
- Planning is also underway for our “Big Give Campaign” which successfully raised almost £14,000, which we are hoping to exceed this year.
- ██████████, an early supporter of our charity, is planning a month of publicity for their 20 years of supporting local charitable organisations, with one week focusing on The Recruitment Junction

3. PROJECT ISSUES AND CHANGES

If not covered previously, please report on any issues or significant changes to the project that will have impact upon the plan of activities, outputs and budget. If applicable, the project change request form may need to be completed in addition to this Quarterly Progress Report.

n/a

4. STATE AID

Please confirm if the project has maintained it's 'no aid' model this quarter (= support provided only to individuals and not to businesses).

We confirm that the state aid status of the project has not changed.

5. PUBLICITY

Please report on any publicity activity that has taken place this quarter. This may include publicity material, leaflets, banners or stationery and any press releases, newspaper articles or publicity events – please submit evidence where available.

- One of our team ran the Kielder Marathon to fundraise for the organisation and was shared and sponsored across social media, raising over £1.640 [Jo Sutton is fundraising for The Recruitment Junction \(justgiving.com\)](#)
- Beverley attended sessions with a similar charity in the West Midlands, Beating Time, to support with a new project we are starting in HMP Northumberland
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/beverley-brooks-63a53910b_westmidlands-northeast-resettlement-activity-6975882029527691264-sZp8?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- Community flyers handed out to local hostels in the area and local library skills hubs