



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: 1/4/21	To: 30/6/21

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.

NB: The project launched just shy of one month late, due to CLLD training and systems issues, plus more delay with Signal training. We anticipate catching up on the knock-on performance delay in the next two periods.

Each candidate enrolled received the core assistance of a reworked CV and disclosure letter, and all who wished to attend training did so. Groupwork was unable to start, due to Covid restrictions.

Most inward referrers sent us candidates as expected – probation/3rd sector referring charities/job centres/welfare-to-work providers/recovery workers/self.

We recruited and trained an additional 5 Business Mentors to join the existing pool.

We expanded our network of employers who will take on people with convictions, with 9 new organisations hiring our candidates for the first time between April – June:

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

As evident above, we saw a significant bounce back as hospitality re-opened from mid April, and 6 of our 9 new employers were from that sector, with placements that ranged from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

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?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED]

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.

10 candidates enrolled onto the programme in the 2 "live" months to June 2021 (expectation 18 in 3 months).

They have achieved 5 jobs and 3 training outputs (outputs not fully recorded onto Evolutive yet, as evidence still pending) – this is very ahead of target for training outputs, and on target for jobs outcomes, so we are very pleased that despite lower numbers, 80% have achieved a job or a training output already.

We signed a contract in June with [REDACTED] to send us referrals directly from [REDACTED]. We latterly learnt that this will only take effect from September.

Our renewal contract with [REDACTED] was due to start in June. This will only be live from the end of August.

Both these delays contributed to slower incoming referrals – this effect will carry into the next report and only be fully caught up during Q3 2021.

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	Contracted Value (£)	Match Funding received this quarter (£)
DWP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Private donors	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Junction 42			
Vardy Foundation			
Watson Family Trust			
Total:			

All match funding is on track, and in some cases, such as private donors, running slightly ahead of expectations as at this stage. We have a high degree of confidence that all necessary match funding will be received by the close of the project.

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.

As stated, the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] contracts will go live (August and September) – this will impact on many more referrals coming on stream, mainly from September and October.

[REDACTED] is releasing 2 films across social media and in the press, including an interview with an ex-offender who we placed into work, and with our Director, on 2nd and 20th September, which should generate both candidate and employer interest.

We will learn if our shortlisting for an award with the Howard League for Penal Reform has converted into a “win” – ceremony October if so.

Now the additional team members are fully trained up, we are “converting” more employers to the cause by the week and we expect new jobs and companies to be signed up week by week, translating into more job outputs. The jobs market is buoyant, including for ex-offenders.

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.

As discussed in recent email correspondence with [REDACTED], the project has suffered in the initial months from a low level of referrals by our partners, and we may need to consider submitting a Project Change Request over the coming months to request an extension to the project close date. All staff have however been fully engaged on the project, prospecting potential employers and working intensively with the current cohort of referred candidates.

4. STATE AID

Please confirm if the project has maintained its ‘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 stationary and any press releases, newspaper articles or publicity events – please submit evidence where available.

N/A for this quarter