



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: 1/1/22	To: 31/3/22

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 still not started, due to caution around Covid.

In 21/2022, 22 unique inward referral agencies have sent us candidates— police/probation/3rd sector referring charities/job centres/welfare-to-work providers/recovery workers.

In project Q4 (Q1 2022), we have so far placed 57 candidates into paid work, across all our funded streams.

We expanded our network of employers who will take on people with convictions, with [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]

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.

16 candidates enrolled onto the programme in the period January to March 2022, total 62 to date. This is a below target performance of 40.

This is the same run rate as last quarter, but taking into account that Dec/Jan are very quiet months, we would expect to see this pick up in the next and final 3 quarters of the project.

Our target, adjusted, is 122 outputs by December 2022, so that is 60 outputs to achieve, or 20 per quarter. This seems entirely realistic.

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

A stacked bar chart illustrating the distribution of Match Funding received over four quarters (Q1 to Q4). The total funding available is £1,000,000. The funding is allocated across four categories: Match Funder, Contracted Value (£), Match Funding received Q1 (£), Match Funding received Q2 (£), Match Funding received Q3 (£), and Match Funding received Q4 (£). The bars show the following breakdown:

Category	Match Funder (£)	Contracted Value (£) (£)	Match Funding received Q1 (£) (£)	Match Funding received Q2 (£) (£)	Match Funding received Q3 (£) (£)	Match Funding received Q4 (£) (£)
Q1	£200,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Q2	£200,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Q3	£200,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Q4	£200,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000

All match funding has been received, with the total match funding over the 4 quarters being in line with our original expectations.

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

- Delivered 62 Christmas hampers and 180 gifts, with help from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], posted 300+ personalised Christmas cards
- All the team were trained and qualified as Mental Health First Aiders (2-day Mental Health England accredited course) sponsored by [REDACTED]
- All staff had half-day training on 'working with convicted sex offenders', with TDI Training
- [REDACTED] donated 10 x reconditioned laptops for us to pass on to our candidates
- We rehoused a 7th candidate, including a 3rd one who had had to quickly move out of supported accommodation to take the job we found him. We have assisted 6 of the 7 into paid work

Future events planned:

- We are starting to attend in-prison Jobs Fairs (May & June 2022 in HMP Northumberland), building relationships with the men pre-release to better engage them on the outside
- Will be meeting the newly incumbent High Sheriff of Tyne & Wear (who is also Head of the North Tyneside Business Network)
- We will deliver 2 x 'Disclosing with Convictions training' workshops (to employers and to fellow practitioners), and will deliver a 'Mock Interview Practice' candidate workshop, with volunteers from Mitie, in May 2022, part funded by [REDACTED], who are issuing a press release to this end

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 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 stationery and any press releases, newspaper articles or publicity events – please submit evidence where available.

- We were awarded a Commendation Award by the Howard League for Penal Reform. In addition to last year's NEPACs award - we are now truly an "award winning charity"!
<https://howardleague.org/community-awards/2021-community-awards-winners/>
- Continued press coverage, in The Northumberland Gazette and The Journal, related to our membership of the newly launched "Employment Advisory Board" at HMP Northumberland, working with prisoners coming up for release and resettling into this region
<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/business/north-east-property-boss-backs-scheme-helping-ex-offenders-into-work-3604405>
<https://www.business-live.co.uk/enterprise/north-east-business-life-charity-23396786>
- Greene King had a number of national press releases and radio interviews for their "Releasing Potential" programme, mentioning our partnership – 8 of our placements have been with this employer
<https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2022/03/17/greene-king-releasing-potential-scheme-finds-100-prison-leavers-jobs>
<https://www.greeneking.co.uk/newsroom/latest-news/greene-king-s-releasing-potential-scheme-helps-100-prison-leavers-find-employment/>