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**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**People and Skills**

**Specification**

**Call for bids from Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver:**

**Employment support to out-of-work residents including intensive wrap-around support**

**April 2023 to March 2025**

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**North of Tyne UK Shared Prosperity Fund: People and Skills**

This open call should be read in conjunction with the North of Tyne Combined Authority’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund People and Skills Project Application Guidance.

1. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**
   1. The UKSPF will invest in economic growth and regeneration in the regions of the United Kingdom (UK), replacing the previous European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). All current European funded programmes will end in 2023.
   2. To help realise their Levelling Up aims, Government has set out that the UKSPF should invest to achieve the following objectives:

* Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards
* Spread opportunities and improve public services
* Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging
* Empower local leaders and communities.

1.3 The UKSPF has three investment priorities of Communities and Place, Local Business Support, and People and Skills. Funding for the first two investment priorities is available from 2022/23, while funding for People and Skills activity begins in 2023/24.

1. **North of Tyne Combined Authority**

2.1 The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) is a strong cross-party, cross-regional collaboration led by a mayor and cabinet working hard to create inclusive, sustainable growth through devolution. Covering the areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland our focus is to drive jobs, inclusion, new homes, the net zero transition, and positive economic change in our region.

2.2 NTCA’s vision is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and

opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region’s future. Reducing inequalities and improving access to opportunities is also an inherent part of the Government’s Levelling Up programme[[1]](#footnote-2) and subsequent UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus[[2]](#footnote-3).

2.3 NTCA will invest our allocation of UKSPF resources in activities to achieve this vision. This includes supporting those not in work to secure good jobs. We want to build on the existing investment that NTCA and its partners are already delivering to boost employability among those out of work. This includes ensuring all activity is aligned to our North of Tyne Employability Plan and the Employment Partnerships:

* North of Tyne Employability Plan[[3]](#footnote-4): The North of Tyne Employability Plan sets out our ambitions for a thriving economy which provides opportunities for all of our residents to achieve their aspirations. This plan provides a clear framework for how we ensure that across North of Tyne the barriers to employment and the challenges employers are currently facing are addressed to support economic recovery and growth. Partner and delivery organisations across North of Tyne will be encouraged to refer to the plan and reflect it in their own plans knowing that collectively we will be working towards the same strategic aims.
* Employment Partnerships: To support the Plan, NTCA has invested resources to create Employment Partnerships in each local authority area. These dynamic and inclusive partnerships bring together people and opportunities to support jobseekers, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that everyone has a stake in our region’s future. Via these partnerships, we aim to help close the unemployment gap by supporting interventions to remove the barriers which make it difficult for people to take up employment and training opportunities and increase awareness and understanding of the local labour market, the job roles available, how to successfully secure one of these roles and the career opportunities available in these sectors. This infrastructure will ensure that there is effective collaboration and partnership working, which will bring strategic and operational added value to the North of Tyne employment support eco-system.

2.4 Further detail regarding Employment Partnerships can be found in section 12. This section also includes details of the requirements NTCA expect successful applicants to undertake in relation to these partnerships.

2.5 Our proposals for the People and Skills Investment Priority will address the three UKSPF objectives of:

* Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
* Supporting people furthest from the labour market to access basic skills.
* Skills to progress in work and to fund local skills needs.

1. **UKSPF People and Skills: Programmes of Activity**

3.1 NTCA will deliver three programmes of activity in the UKSPF People and Skills theme:

* Employment support to out-of-work residents, including intensive wrap-around support.
* Basic skills provision for those furthest from the labour market.
* Skills to progress in-work and address business needs.

3.2 The first of these programmes will focus on providing economically inactive people with access to support to progress into employment including:

* Engagement and social inclusion activities, supporting those furthest away from existing employability provision, with poor mental health and / or from under-represented groups e.g. young people from areas of low household income, Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic people, people with disabilities, care leavers, carers and LGBTQ+ people.
* Intensive one-to-one wraparound support and guidance to identify, address and remove barriers and improve wellbeing, enabling participants to move closer to their goals. One-to-one support to residents to develop a bespoke plan, identify key interventions, and create a personalised journey towards individual goals to move into work.

3.3 UKSPF resources will build on and add value to a broad range of NTCA people and skills programmes, including the devolved Adult Education Budget, Skills for Growth, Employment and Skills Programme, Return to Work Carers Project and North of Tyne Employment Partnerships. UKSPF resources will not duplicate existing funded provision.

1. **UKSPF People and Skills Year 2 and Year 3 Investment 2023/2025**

4.1 Activity Programme 1: Employment support to out-of-work residents including intensive wrap-around support.

4.2 UKSPF resource to support delivery of People and Skills interventions begins in Year 2 of the

Investment Programme (2023/24), with the majority of the resource being available in year 3 (2024/25). NTCA have designed a new grant programme, open only to VCSE organisations that are currently in receipt of ESIF. The Programme will fund, support and evaluate VCSE-led, community-based activities that support economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.

4.3 The overarching ambition of the new grant programme is to ***bring key VCSE partners together to deliver activities to support economically inactive residents.***

**5 Strategic Context – Economic Inactivity**

5.1 There are high rates of economic inactivity in the North of Tyne. For the purposes of UKSPF delivery, economic inactivity is defined by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) as follows:

* Economically inactive individuals are those not in work and not actively seeking work (unlike unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work). Not all economically inactive individuals claim benefits. For those that do, this would include those claiming either “legacy” benefits or those within specific conditionality regimes in Universal Credit (UC). The former includes Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS). The latter includes claimants within the Preparation Requirement or Work Focused Interview Requirement conditionality regimes (or equivalent for all of the above). There is no length of time on inactivity required.

5.2 Economically inactive residents seeking work typically face complex and multiple barriers. Moreover, as a result of their economic inactivity, these residents are usually ineligible for mainstream employment support, and therefore find themselves further isolated from economic opportunities.

5.3 **Scale of economic inactivity*:*** The North of Tyne has experienced volatile rates of economic inactivity over the past 10 years, with significant rises and falls over short periods, but the rates have always remained above the England average. Currently, there are approximately 124,000 residents in the North of Tyne who are economically inactive, representing 24.6% of the working age population. This rate is the third highest rate of economic inactivity of MCA areas in the country and is 1.7% points higher than the current England average.

5.4 Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, rates of economic inactivity were decreasing across the country

alongside unemployment rates, and NTCA rates broadly followed. Between March 2020 and June 2021 when social distancing measures and employment support were in place to varying degrees, rates of economic inactivity in the North of Tyne decreased significantly while increasingly slightly nationally.

5.5 In the three quarters since, NTCA’s economic inactivity rate has increased by 2% points while national levels have remained fairly stable, decreasing by 0.1% points. The increase in economic inactivity corresponds with a drop in both employment and benefit claimant counts, suggesting that multiple factors could have contributed to the change.

5.6 **Who is economically inactive?**Certain groups of people are more likely to be economically inactive than others. By sex, the percentage of economically inactive women was 27.6%, as compared to 21.6% of men. This is largely driven by a significant difference in the number of females who look after family and home, but there are also more females who are students.

5.7 There is limited data on the number or proportion of residents who are economically inactive by age categories. However, we do know that 31.4% of residents aged 18-24 are economically inactive. While not exact, we also can assume that the 17% of residents aged 16-64 who are retired are aged 50+. Moreover, we know that ethnic minoritised residents are more likely to be economically inactive (32.2%) than white residents (23.9%). This is a greater issue in the North of Tyne than on average in England, with the gap between groups standing at 8.3% points compared to 6.3% in England.

5.8 Residents who live in areas of disadvantage are also more likely to be economically inactive. Amongst all the Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies in the North of Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne Central, which has numerous wards of high deprivation, had the highest percentage (32.8%) of economically inactive residents. Following Newcastle upon Tyne Central, the percentage in Wansbeck was 29%. On the other end of the spectrum, constituencies like Newcastle upon Tyne North and Tynemouth had 21.7% and 21.9% respectively. For disclosure reasons, we are not able to get robust data around the reasons for economic inactivity within these areas but could make assumptions based on other known demographic characteristics.

5.9 **Reasons for Economic Inactivity**: Currently, the largest reason for economic inactivity in the North of Tyne area is ill-health, with 28.2% of economically inactive residents citing a long-term or short-term illness, approximately 35,000 people. The next most significant reason for economic inactivity is looking after family/home (23.9%) and being in full-time education (20.4%). Those who were retired (16.7%) make up the smallest group with about 20,700 residents.

5.10 The largest changes in reason for economic inactivity as a proportion of all economical inactive has been in relation to students, dropping from a high 34% in March 2018 (42,000 people) to 20% in March 2022 (25,300 people). The corresponding growth in the economically inactive population has been distributed across the other categories, with the highest proportion in people looking after family and home (6% points, 1,100 people) and ‘other’ reasons (4% points, 4,500 people) over the same period.

5.11 In contrast, the proportion of students in England has increased (1% points), and those looking after family and home has decreased (5% points). With these changes considered, the current most prominent reasons for economic inactivity within England are being a student (28%) and ill-health (26%).

**6 NTCA Call for Evidence: Key Findings**

6.1 To inform this open call, NTCA has worked in partnership with the Learning and Work Institute to identify evidence relating to the specific barriers economically inactive residents face in engaging or re-engaging with the labour market. This work involved a call for evidence from a range of stakeholders from across sectors with experience of working with economically inactive residents, with a particular focus on identifying emerging trends since the Covid-19 pandemic. The key findings from this exercise include:

* The pandemic has exacerbated an already difficult situation for economically inactive residents, and contributed to the often-complex mix of challenges and barriers faced by individuals
* Since the Covid pandemic, there has been a marked increase in economically inactive residents reporting mental health-related conditions as a barrier to employment. This includes a variety of different conditions, from low self-esteem and confidence to anxiety, depression and severe mental illness
* Physical health conditions were also reported as a barrier to economically inactive residents looking for work. Some of the explanations given were related to the pandemic (such as extended waiting lists for treatment or after a period of inactivity / restriction), or the medical effects of Covid-19 itself (such as ‘long Covid’). Other issues referred to were recovery from trauma and having a long-term disability.
* Respondents reported that economically inactive residents were less likely to have access to informal support networks since Covid, and more likely to report increased social isolation – either due to the closure of services or anxiety about meeting in group.
* Respondents cited a perceived a growth in employer demand for digital skills. However, a lack of digital skills among economically inactive residents was not just seen as about confidence, or training to address issues of ‘digital literacy.’ Respondents cited lack of access to the internet/basic connectivity, and wider digital exclusion (lack of access to digital technology). In addition, respondents highlighted the increasing use by employers of online applications for jobs
* As a result of the pandemic, there has been an increase in demand for caring responsibilities among some economically inactive residents, which are cited as reasons for not looking for work or not needing to work. Connected to this, respondents cited support-related barriers to looking for work which have increased since the pandemic. These include access to affordable childcare, affordable travel/transport, and affordable and available alternative care arrangements for adult family members

**7 Building Better Opportunities Programme: Key Findings**

7.1 The National Lottery Community Fund supported the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) Network in the region. An evaluation of the 5 North East BBO programmes has identified areas of good practice, listed below, in engaging and supporting the progress of residents who are economically inactive. We would expect successful organisations to reflect these areas of good practice in project applications.

* Sub-regional programmes – delivered locally resulting in strong community reach
* Holistic and long-term support for participants
* Building capacity within the VCSE sector
* Adaptability, innovation, targeted design and research
* Addressing social inclusion
* Measurement of soft outcomes as well as progression into results
* Strong record in compliance and relationship with funders
* Good value for money

7.2 The wider learning and key recommendations from the BBO evaluation include:

* Coordination and alignment of services is key
* Support for progression as well as employment
* Social inclusion as well as employability is key
* Supporting capacity and capability of individuals whilst also acknowledging isolation
* Use of digital platforms for marketing and engagement and now digital delivery
* Giving a voice to participants in shaping future delivery

**8 Eligibility criteria for applicants**

8.1 Summary of Call Parameters

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| Dates | The earliest potential start date for delivery is the 1st April 2023. All activity and spend must be complete by the 31st March 2025. |
| Indicative Fund Allocation | The minimum grant request is £500,000, and the maximum request is £1 million.  The total UKSPF resource available for this opportunity is £3 million.  To extend their delivery reach and delivery economies of scale, VCSE providers may wish to consider forming consortia and/or partnership approaches to create co-ordinated and well-integrated delivery infrastructure of employability provision. |
| Applications | Applicants are expected to submit proposals which demonstrate impact and additionality. NTCA funding is not intended to replace existing funding. |
| Definition of a VCSE Organisation | See Open Call Guidance for the NTCA definition of a VCSE organisation. |
| Geographical Scope | All delivery must be within the North of Tyne Combined Authority area. Eligible participants must reside within the North of Tyne area. |
| Deadlines | Applications must be received by noon on Friday 10th February 2023. Any application not fully completed and submitted after this date and time will be disregarded by the assessment panel. |
| Application selection | All applications will be scored in line with the NTCA application award criteria set out in the supporting guidance. |
| Specific Funding Requirements | All applicants and delivery partners must be a VCSE organisations who have delivered or are currently delivering an ESF employability support programme (evidence will be requested).  All successful applicants will be required to actively work with the relevant Employment Partnership/s (in Newcastle, Northumberland and / or North Tyneside) to ensure UKSPF funded projects add value to, and do not duplicate existing activity.  All applications should reflect on best practice from the BBO programme evaluation and set out how they can be embedded into project delivery.  All activity should align with UKSPF investment priorities E33, E35 or both.  Successful applicants will be required to work with community partnerships once operational.  Applications must consider social value within their response.  Please see Open Call Guidance for additional information. |
| Eligible match funding | NTCA welcomes projects that bring match funding. There is no set level of match funding required, however, NTCA expects match funding to be auditable and attributable to project expenditure. Therefore, match funding for projects must relate to actual project expenditure.  Please see Open Call Guidance for additional information. |
| Procurement | Applications must demonstrate that the project will follow national procurement regulations (where applicable), and that procurement processes achieve best value for money for public funds.  Please see Open Call Guidance for additional information. |
| Calculation and eligibility of costs | Please see Open Call Guidance for additional information regarding the calculation and eligibility of costs. |

8.2 The eligibility criteria for funding UKSPF people and skills activity in 2023/24 has been set by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities[[4]](#footnote-5):

* Lead local authorities have the flexibility to fund targeted people and skills provision in 2022-23 and 2023-24 where this is a continuing priority for 2024-25 and may be at significant risk of ending due to the tail off of EU funds. This flexibility may only be used where provision is currently delivered by voluntary and community organisations, having regard for the focus of the Fund and available funding.

8.3 To be eligible for funding under this open call, applicants / providers must:

* Be VCSE organisations (lead applicant and delivery partners)
* Have delivered (since April 2022) or are currently delivering an ESF employability support programme, which can demonstrate a delivery infrastructure and local footprint supporting unemployed or economically inactive residents to progress towards and / or into the labour market.
* Provide the ESF Project Reference number(s) on the project application form
* Deliver within the North of Tyne area
* Work with the relevant Employment Partnership/s (see section 12 for further details)
* Be seeking UKSPF resource of at least £500,000 up to a maximum of £1m.

8.4 It is for providers to demonstrate that the provision they propose will deliver the eligible activities, outputs and outcomes we are seeking (see section 15). We will require applicants to demonstrate how they intend to progress participants towards and / or into work, including progression into training or complementary employability support to address a specific need, and what tool(s) will be used to monitor the individual’s progress.

**9 Geographical Coverage**

9.1 We are looking for a spread of provision across the full North of Tyne Combined Authority geography. This includes the following Local Authority areas:

* Newcastle City Council
* Northumberland County Council
* North Tyneside Council

9.2 Providers may submit applications that deliver in one, two, or across all of these geographical areas. Successful applicants will also be expected to work collaboratively with Employment Partnerships in respective Local Authority areas. Further detail regarding Employment Partnerships can be found in section 12. This section also includes details of the requirements NTCA expect successful applicants to undertake in relation to Employment Partnerships.

9.3 UKSPF provision should be easily accessible to targeted participants. We will seek a balanced portfolio of delivery across the region (e.g., to scale, geography including our rural areas, target participant groups, and outputs / outcomes) to ensure an equality of access to all economically inactive residents in the region.

9.4 The award of a grant will be subject to the appropriate coverage of project outcomes, geographical location, target groups, successfully passing the due diligence process, and having sufficient capability and capacity in place. Allocations will demonstrate equity of provision across all areas within the wider North of Tyne geography.

9.5 From the initial submissions received, if NTCA do not have sufficient coverage of project outcomes, geographical location and target groups NTCA may enter into clarifications with bidders to discuss their initial submission and ensure that there is sufficient coverage of project outcomes, geographical location and target groups.

**10** **Eligible Activity**

10.1 VCSE organisations are invited to apply for UKSPF funding to deliver the interventions and activities identified in the People and Skills investment priority[[5]](#footnote-6).

10.2 For this open call, activity be focused primarily on delivering the outputs and outcomes associated with intervention E33:

* Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills support where there are local provision gaps (Intervention E33).

10.3 Successful applicants may also record outputs and outcomes associated with interventions E34 and E35, where this is appropriate, adds value, and does not duplicate existing funded provision:

* Courses including basic skills, and life skills and career skills (where not met through DWP provision) for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications. (Intervention E34)
* Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing (Intervention E35).

10.4 Activity will focus on providing economically inactive people with access to the right support to overcome their barriers to work and equip them with the right skills and attributes to progress into good, sustainable employment.

10.5 Activities which could be supported within this Programme may include, but are not limited to:

* Personalised and intensive support delivered through keyworkers, including referrals to relevant local training, skills and specialised support
* Areas investing in the keyworker function may also procure additional services, offering life skills and steps to basic skills support, where there are gaps in local provision
* Work placements for individuals with health and disability needs, including person-centred vocational profiling
* Support groups for people with similar health barriers to share personal experiences, coping strategies, or information about their conditions to help remove barriers to work.
* Counselling and advice services, including tailored work-focused mental health support, to help individuals with coping strategies and support plans for transition into work
* Provide access to volunteering and work experience placements to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing (by working with the Community Partnerships or Volunteering Networks in each Local Authority area)
* Referrals to services that offer a holistic approach to addressing barriers to employment(?)
* Specialist outreach
* Person-centred emotional, practical or financial support for carers, and advice on how to balance caring and work responsibilities where this presents a barrier to work.

10.6 We are seeking provision that has a strong element of face-to-face support but will consider a ‘blended delivery model’ of in-person and digital support to meet individual need.

**11 Target Participants**

11.1 All economically inactive residents in the North of Tyne area will be eligible for support under this programme if they:

* are resident within the North of Tyne area,
* are aged over 16, and
* have the ‘right to work’ in the UK

11.2 Please refer to the Open Call Guidance for further information regarding the ‘right to work’ in the UK.

11.3 Eligible participants must meet the definition of economic inactivity provided below, which has been published by DLUHC in the output and outcome definitions for Intervention E33[[6]](#footnote-7):

* Economically inactive individuals are those not in work and not actively seeking work (unlike unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work). Not all economically inactive individuals claim benefits. For those that do, this would include those claiming either “legacy” benefits or those within specific conditionality regimes in Universal Credit (UC). The former includes Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS). The latter includes claimants within the Preparation Requirement or Work Focused Interview Requirement conditionality regimes (or equivalent for all of the above). There is no length of time on inactivity required.

11.4 We would welcome applications which focus on the following economically inactive groups:

* Older residents (50+)
* Residents who have health conditions which are barriers to work
* Disabled residents.

11.5 One of the target outputs for this programme is providing support for socially excluded people. For this output, the definition provided by DLUHC is as follows:

Socially excluded means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of following factors:

* Unemployment, financial hardship, youth or old age, ill health (physical or mental), substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs, discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown, poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards), and crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

**12 Employment Partnerships**

12.1 We would expect all successful providers to actively work with the relevant Employment Partnership(s) to ensure proposed activity adds value to and does not duplicate existing activity. This could include, for example, actively working with Employment Partnership Coordinators to inform and support their work including provision of relevant performance data and mapping activities; regularly attending Employment Partnership meetings to update on delivery and ensure activity can be targeted to address gaps / identified needs; providing regular progress updates; cross-referral of participants to ensure they can access the most appropriate support for their needs and to help them progress toward and / or into the labour market.

12.2 The overarching approach to Employment Partnerships is led by the local authorities, and these partnerships bring together DWP, other public, private and voluntary sector employability and skills providers and the NTCA to support job seekers and employers to help move people into sustained, high-quality employment.

12.3 Through this approach the partnerships will help bring together, coordinate and maximise existing capacity. Employment Partnerships will:

* Ensure that all partners are aware of each other's provision offer, and are encouraged and supported to make appropriate referrals
* Enhance collaborative working with NTCA, DWP, constituent LAs and local stakeholders
* Support the maximisation of existing provision and avoid duplication
* Co-ordinate and strengthen engagement with employers to address their training and recruitment needs
* Draw out and pool intelligence to identify synergies, new partnerships and highlight gaps in provision
* Work collaboratively as a partnership, where appropriate, to access funding to address gaps in provision.

12.4 We would expect all:

* Applicants to consult with the relevant Employment Partnership Co-ordinator during the development of their proposed project to ensure it can align with existing provision, and to discuss how they could work with the Partnership should the project be approved.
* Successful providers to be active members of the relevant Employment Partnerships; share progress reports with the relevant local partnerships; actively work with Employment Partnership Coordinators to inform and support their work including provision of relevant performance data and mapping activities; and work in collaboration with the partnerships ensuring that there is no duplication of provision.

12.5 If you would like to contact the relevant Employment Partnership/s to discuss your project, and how you can engage with the Partnership, please contact:

* Newcastle City Council: Robin Beveridge email [robin.beveridge@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:robin.beveridge@newcastle.gov.uk)
* Northumberland County Council: Kevin Higgins email [kevin.higgins@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.higgins@northumberland.gov.uk)
* North Tyneside Council: Mark Barrett e mail [mark.barrett@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:mark.barrett@northtyneside.gov.uk)

**13** **Community Partnerships**

13.1 In addition to the requirement to work with the relevant Employment Partnership(s), we would also like successful applicants to engage with the local Community Partnerships, once they are operational.

13.2 NTCA, in partnership with the Local Authorities (Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland) Local Infrastructure Organisations and other stakeholders, is establishing three local Community Partnerships, bringing together a broad range of VCSE, public and private sector organisations (e.g., health, education, environmental, housing) to deliver the Communities and Place priorities of UKSPF. The Partnerships will focus on social action, capacity building, community engagement and volunteering in the most deprived communities within the North of Tyne. (Geographies are still to be determined)

13.3 Please refer to the Open Call Guidance for additional information regarding Community Partnerships.

**14 Multiply Programme**

14.1 Multiply is a new national programme focused on improving adult numeracy skills and one of the first priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It is targeted at adults aged 19+ who need to improve their numeracy (up to and including Level 2) and supports both the employed and the unemployed.

14.2 NTCA received an allocation of £4,128,607 to be delivered across the spending review periods (2022-23 to 24-25). Funding allocations were subject to the development and submission of an Investment Plan In June 2022 for bespoke adult numeracy programmes against a national menu of interventions. NTCA’s Multiply Investment Plan has been designed based on extensive consultation and joint working with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders and will focus on three delivery themes: Community Engagement; Family Learning; and Numeracy Skills for the Workplace.

14.3 Successful providers on the Multiply programme will need to demonstrate that they have in place, and are using, the necessary joint working and progression pathways to prepare and progress participants on to further provision. Projects should consider how they can co-locate with other relevant services to enable ease of access to support progression.  In Year 2 of the Multiply programme providers will be expected to align delivery with wider UKSPF interventions through the Communities and Place and People and Skills themes.

14.4 If you would like to find out more about the Multiply Programme contact: Michelle Stone [michelle.stone@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.stone@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk).

**15 UKSPF People and Skills – Outputs and Outcomes**

15.1 The UKSPF Outputs and Outcomes[[7]](#footnote-8) associated with this programme are listed in the tables below. The primary outputs and outcomes are associated with UKSPF Intervention E33. Providers may also deliver and report on outcomes and outputs associated with Interventions E34 and E35.

15.2 As part of the application process, providers will be required to submit a form with a projection of the outputs and outcomes that they intend to achieve over the duration of the programme. Providers will not be required to deliver against every output and outcome. A definition of each output and outcome will be provided with the application form.

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| **Primary Outputs** |
| E33 - Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services |
| E33 - Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system |
| E33 - Number of socially excluded people accessing support |
| E33 - Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment |
| E33 - Number of people supported to engage in job-searching |
| E33 - Number of people receiving support to gain employment |
| E33 - Effective working between keyworkers and additional services (number of engagements) |

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| **Primary Outcomes** |
| E33 - Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support |
| E33 - Number of active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support |
| E33 - Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF |
| E33 - Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services |
| E33 - Number of people engaged in job-searching following support |
| E33 - Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support |
| E33 - Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital, and ESOL) |

15.3 Secondary Outputs:

* E34 – Number of people supported to engage in life skills
* E34 – Number of people supported onto a course through providing financial support
* E34 – Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support
* E35 - Number of people supported to participate in education
* E35 - Number of volunteering opportunities supported
* E35 - Number of people taking part in work experience programmes.

15.4 Secondary Outcomes:

* E34 – Number of people in education/training
* E34, E35 - Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision.

15.5 Approval of contracted outcomes and outputs will be agreed between NTCA and successful applicants and will remain subject to the publication of further government guidance. Providers will be required to outline how they will deliver value for money as part of the application process.

15.6 Please refer to the Open Call Guidance for additional guidance regarding UKSPF Outputs and Outcomes.

**16 Data submissions and quarterly monitoring arrangements**

16.1 The monitoring information for each participant will be collected via the Participant Registration Form (see below). It will be the responsibility of each provider to ensure every participant has completed this information.

16.2 NTCA’s claim process operates quarterly in arrears with projects able to claim for actual expenditure on project activities on a quarterly basis after the money has been spent. Applicant organisations are required to cashflow the project prior to receiving the first claim payment; this needs to be factored into project planning and financial profiles included within the business case. Once a complete claim is received against eligible expenditure as described in the business case, NTCA will pay the grant to projects based on the project intervention rate. For example, a project with a total value of £1m with £500,000 NTCA investment would have a 50% intervention rate. If a project submitted a claim for £200,000 of eligible expenditure, then NTCA would pay 50% of those costs (£100,000). In exceptional circumstances NTCA may agree to adjust the profile of financial drawdown, this should be discussed and agreed as part of the development of the business case.

16.3 Claims will be paid when:

* A fully completed claim form has been approved by NTCA together with supporting information (including a detailed transaction list from which information will be sampled and evidence of defrayment required);
* Any project specific funding conditions have been complied with
* Financial, output, milestone, risk and progress information has been uploaded correctly onto the NE OPS portal.
* Claims will be due one month following the quarter end. For example, a Q1 April-June 2023 claim will be due by 31st July 2023.

**17 Evaluation, Research and Data Collection**

17.1 The evaluation of the UKSPF programme is vital as it will help to inform the future direction and longevity of the policy. All participating organisations must commit to participate in research and

evaluation by collecting and providing data, taking part in qualitative interviews, completing surveys and allowing their data to be processed and analysed for this purpose.

**Appendix 1**

**[Programme Title]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Participant Registration Form**  For Participants and Advisers to Complete | | | | | | | | |
| Full Name |  | | | | | | | |
| Address |  | | | | | | | |
| Postcode | | |  | | | | |
| Email |  | | | | | | | |
| Mobile / Phone |  | | | | | | | |
| Preferred method of contact | |  | | | | | | |
| National Insurance Number | |  | | | | | | |
| How did you hear about the Project? | Delivery Partner Existing Client | | | | | | |  |
| JobCentre Plus | | | | | | |  |
| NHS Health Service | | | | | | |  |
| Voluntary Sector Partner | | | | | | |  |
| Housing Association/ Provider | | | | | | |  |
| Self-referral | | | | | | |  |
| Outreach and engagement from Delivery Provider | | | | | | |  |
| Careers Service | | | | | | |  |
| Promotional publicity (posters, leaflets, etc) | | | | | | |  |
| Word of Mouth | | | | | | |  |
| Other | | | | | | |  |
| Age | Under 18 years | |  | | 35 – 49 | | |  |
| 18 – 24 | |  | | 50 – 64 | | |  |
| 25 - 34 | |  | | 65 or over | | |  |
| Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes o No o Prefer not to say o  If yes: is this a physical disability o a mental disability o Both o Prefer not to say o | | | | | | | | |
| Gender: | Male | |  | | Female | | |  |
| Non-binary | |  | | Other | | |  |
| Prefer not to say | |  | |  | | |  |
| Current Economic Status | Unemployed and looking for work | |  | | Unemployed but not looking for work (Economically Inactive) | | |  |
| Employed | |  | | Retired | | |  |
| In full time education | |  | |  | | |  |
| Highest Qualification Level | No formal qualification | |  | | Level 1 |  | Level 2 |  |
| Level 3 | |  | | Level 4 |  | Level 5 |  |
| Level 6 | |  | | Level 7 |  | Trade Apprenticeship |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | |
| o White British  o Irish  o Gypsy or Irish traveller  o Any other White background  o Mixed / multiple ethnic groups  o White and Black Caribbean | o White and Black African  o Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background  o Asian / Asian British  o Indian  o Pakistani  o Bangladeshi  o Chinese  o Any other Asian | | o Black / African / Caribbean / Black British  o African  o Caribbean  o Any other Black / African / Caribbean background  o Arab  o Any other ethnic group  o Prefer not to say | |
| **Data Privacy Information** | | | | |
| This project is delivered by [insert partners’ names] in partnership with, and funded by, North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).  [insert partner’s name] is supporting you and has its own Data Privacy Statement which they will have shared with you and is available on their website. (You can also ask your Adviser for a copy).  All personal information collected about you will be stored securely and treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your information will be stored electronically and will only be used for the purpose of performance management of this contract and for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the programme. We will collect and process your personal data to help assist with understanding equality and diversity across the programme. North of Tyne Combined Authority will hold your data for 6 months beyond the life of the programme.  In accordance with GDPR, NTCA has a Data Protection Officer who makes sure your rights are respected and the law is followed. You can see the NTCA Data Privacy Policy at [www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](http://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/). If you have any concerns or questions about how NTCA looks after your personal information, or you require any further information, please contact the Data Protection Officer, Phil Slater at [NTCA.dataprotection@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk) or by calling (0191) 2116500. | | | | |
| **Programme Monitoring and Evaluation** | | | | |
| As part of the programme’s monitoring, we may require to speak with participants to find out about their experience and help improve our programmes in the future. This will be done using the contact details you provided on signing up to the programme. | | | | |
| Are you willing to be contacted by the North of Tyne Combined Authority or a project evaluation partner to share your feedback? Yes o No o | | | | |
| If yes, how can they contact you – please tick one | | An online survey | |  |
| A telephone interview | |  |
| If you tick yes to the above question you are consenting to your telephone number or email address being shared with NTCA and/ or the evaluator. You can withdraw your consent at any time. | | | | |
| Participant signature: Date:  Adviser signature: Date: | | | | |
| **Office Use Only** Participant Reference Number: | | | | |

1. [Levelling Up White Paper](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [North of Tyne Combined Authority Employability Plan](https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Employability-Plan-digital2.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [Gov.uk: UKSPF Interventions list for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. [Gov.uk: UKSPF Interventions list for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: outputs and outcomes definitions](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-outputs-and-outcomes-definitions-2) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [Gov.uk: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs (PDF)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)