

Framework Agreement between the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Department for Work and Pensions

This Framework Agreement addresses the commitment set out in the North of Tyne Devolution Agreement published on 8th November 2018, to jointly develop and adopt an Employment Support Framework Agreement to drive the better coordination of employment, skills and health services across the North of Tyne area in order to increase the number of residents moving into work.

The framework will make a significant contribution to the North of Tyne Combined Authority aim to create a growing, more inclusive economy, by delivering our shared strategic ambitions to:

- Achieve a better balance between skills supply and local labour market demand in the North of Tyne area to enable its residents to realise their potential in full;
- Increase employment rates of groups who are proportionally under-represented in the labour market, such as: women (including those returning to work after looking after children), people who are disabled or have a health condition, people aged over 50, those from ethnic minority groups, carers, and people with multiple complex issues;
- Support people to remain in employment if they are at risk of losing it due to age, health conditions, automation, or other barriers to retention;
- Support people to find new employment opportunities or retain employment where they have been displaced due to CV19, including re-skilling, boosting confidence and local networks;
- Develop closer regional working via the Jobcentre Plus network using tools such as co-location, outreach and youth hubs to help drive local growth and sustained recovery;
- Support in-work progression for those in low paid employment, to enable more people to achieve financial security and stability through sustainable employment.

The North of Tyne Inclusive Economy Board, of which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to be an active member, will provide oversight of the Framework and be the key governance through which it is delivered. The Inclusive Economy Board will agree and oversee an Action Plan setting out how the shared ambitions are to be delivered in the North of Tyne area.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the North of Tyne Combined Authority will aim to deliver these ambitions by working together in partnership with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and local employment and skills stakeholders and in the context of the Skills Advisory Panel.

This Framework Agreement was approved by the North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet on: 22 October 2019

This Framework Agreement was approved by the Department for Work and Pensions Minister for Employment on: 10 October 2020

