

Withdrawn

This publication has been withdrawn.

It is no longer current.

DWP Provider Guidance Chapter 1

ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems (England)

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Overview

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An introduction to the European Social Fund Support for Families with Multiple Problems Provider Guidance

1. Support for Families with Multiple Problems Provision is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the European Social Fund (ESF) and aims to tackle entrenched worklessness in England by progressing people in families with multiple problems closer to employment. The provision is aimed at families with multiple problems and complex needs where:

- At least one member of the family receives a DWP working age benefit ([see Chapter 3, paragraph 20](#)); and
- Either no one in the family is working, or there is a history of worklessness across generations.

This provision is voluntary and focuses on providing a whole family approach, making support available to individual family members across the generations. It involves Providers working closely with Local Authorities to identify families who can benefit from this provision.

2. This programme specific guidance sets out the essential things you need to know and do in order to meet the provision requirements.

3. In addition, it is important that you follow the [Generic Provider Guidance](#) which applies to all of our provisions.

4. You must ensure that ESF requirements are adhered to. Further information regarding ESF requirements can be found in [Generic Provider Guidance Chapter 11 – ESF requirements](#).

5. Further information about ESF is available here: [European Social Fund website](#).

Background to ESF Programme and Objectives (2007 – 2013)

6. The key priorities of the England ESF Programme for 2007 – 2013, set by the European Commission, are to increase employment, reduce unemployment and inactivity and to tackle barriers to work faced by:

- people with disabilities and health conditions;
- lone parents and other disadvantaged parents;
- older workers;
- people from black and ethnic minorities; and
- people with low or no qualifications.

7. The intention is that tackling and preventing worklessness will help improve social inclusion and social mobility and, by helping the above groups to enter and progress in employment help to alleviate child poverty.

Overview of the European Social Fund Support for Families with Multiple Problems Provision

8. The key purpose of ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems (sometimes shortened to ESF Families Provision) is to tackle entrenched worklessness by progressing people in families with multiple problems closer to employment that lasts.

9. The provision is voluntary and the focus of this support will be on providing a whole family approach, whilst meeting individual needs of family members to move them closer to the labour market. Individuals on this provision will have significant barriers to work and your provision must contribute to and add value to wider family support. It will also provide a continuum of support which complements and adds value to the broader programme of DWP support including the Work Programme.

Duration of the ESF Families Provision

10. Once engaged on the ESF Families Provision, and an attachment made, you then have 12 months with the individual to help them progress into sustained employment. There is some scope for participants to remain longer in certain circumstances at the discretion of your Performance Manager. The authorisation and the reason for the extension should be recorded on the participant's file.

11. Unless an individual completes early, it is your responsibility to continue to engage with individuals for the full 12 months. Further information about exits from the provision can be found in [Chapter 9](#).

Primary Referral Route - Local Authorities

12. Local Authorities are central partners and the primary source of identification of families to the ESF Families provision. As they are already working with families with multiple problems they are responsible for identifying and referring families who would benefit from ESF support. A referral from the Local Authority defines the individual and family members as eligible in principle for the provision.

13. You are expected to work closely with Local Authorities within your Contract Package Area (CPA). There are a number of Local Authorities in each CPA, therefore referrals for individual/family members could come from different Local Authorities and families may span Local Authorities boundaries. Further information about working with Local Authorities can be found in [Chapter 2](#).

Secondary Referral Route - Provider

14. To help you to increase the level of referral activity for the contract, whilst remaining within the original specification for this provision, the secondary referral route enables you to identify and recruit participants from eligible families, carry out their eligibility assessment, and attach them to the provision, without first needing to ask the Local Authority to agree the referral. The secondary referral route will operate for the period specified in the contract variation drawn up for this change. Further information about the Secondary Referral Route can be found in [Chapter 3](#).

15. You may choose whether or not to implement this referral route, and whether to operate it in some or all of the Local Authority areas within your CPA. You may review and change these decisions at any stage during the operational period of the secondary referral route. You must consult your Performance Manager as early as possible to gain approval of your implementation plan, so that necessary communications and processes can be agreed before you implement the change. Once agreed, you should make arrangements to communicate the new arrangements to those Local Authorities in your CPA affected by it.

How ESF fits with the Troubled Families Provision

16. The Department for Communities and Local Government announced the [Troubled Families Programme](#) in December 2011 and published the [Troubled Families Financial Framework](#) at the end March 2012.

17. ESF Families Provision has subsequently been aligned with the overarching Troubled Families Programme and forms a key element and

important tool for Local Authorities to use in order to meet the national ambition of turning around the lives of 120,000 families.

18. Complementing the wider Troubled Families Programme, referral into ESF Families Provision is designed to move families closer to the labour market and will contribute to Local Authorities reaching their success targets for the Troubled Families Programme.

19. Jobcentre Plus is supporting Local Authorities with secondees to help the Troubled Families Programme by promoting the local employment agenda, including ESF Families Provision. You can develop links with these advisers via your local ESF Manager.