

The European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 (ESF 14-20) programme is an EU-funded<sup>1</sup> employment, skills and social inclusion programme across England aimed at providing the help people need to achieve their potential.

DWP acts as the Managing Authority (MA) for the programme across England and delivers ESF funded provision as one of the Co-Financing Organisations (CFO) through an arrangement with the MA. The provision is spread across 23 of the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across England. There are 31 contracts, of which eight are in London. Participants can be in employment, long-term unemployed or inactive; or have a barrier to work, such as a basic skills need, a health condition or caring responsibilities. **This statistical publication refers only to the element of the programme operated by DWP as a CFO. This is referred to here as ESF 14-20.**

## Main stories

- 54,940 people started on the ESF 14-20 programme from September 2016 to April 2019.
- 44% of all people starting ESF 14-20 were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, and a further 27% were claiming Universal Credit.
- 43% of all people starting ESF 14-20 are women, 27% are Black and Minority Ethnic, and 45% have a self-declared disability.

### 54,940

Starts to the programme since  
September 2016

Starts by month, September 2016 to April 2019



### 27%

of starts up to April 2018 spent at least 13  
weeks in work.

In total 11,230 people have spent at least 13 weeks in work in a 26-week period. This is a **Short Job Outcome**.

Providers' performance met or exceeded contractual targets in eight out of 31 contracts for this outcome

### 21%

of starts up to April 2018 spent at least 26  
weeks in work

In total 7,730 people have spent at least 26 weeks in work in a 52-week period. This is a **Sustained Job Outcome**.

Providers' performance met or exceeded contractual targets in nine out of 31 contracts for this outcome.

<sup>1</sup> Through the EU's ESF 14-20 programme which is part of ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme)

## At a glance

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54,940 total **starts** since September 2016

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27% of starts up to April 2018 achieved a **Short Job Outcome**. 21% achieved a **Sustained Job Outcome**.

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A total of 11,230 Short Job Outcomes and 7,730 Sustained Job Outcomes **from all starts**.

**43%** of participants are women. **27%** are Black and Minority Ethnic. **45%** have a self-declared disability.

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**44%** of participants are **claiming Job Seeker's Allowance**, and 27% claim Universal Credit.

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## Introduction

### What is the European Social Fund?

The European Social Fund programme from 2014 to 2020 is a seven year round of funding from the EU as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme (ESIF). The ESIF is predominantly made up of the following three arms:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)<sup>2</sup>

ESF aims to improve employment opportunities, promote social inclusion and invest in skills by providing help people need to meet their potential. The programme is split geographically by category of region<sup>3</sup>:

- More Developed (GDP per capita above 90% of EU average). This covers most of England,
- Transitional (GDP per capita 75% to 90% of EU average) There are nine of these areas in England,
- Less Developed (GDP per capita below 75% of EU average) Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is the only region in England in this category.

Within the ESF programme DWP also acts as a Co-Financing Organisation. As part of the CFO arrangement, providers are paid a fixed monthly Delivery Fee and payments for **Short Job Outcomes**, in which an individual has 13 cumulative weeks in employment over a period of 26 weeks, and **Sustained Job Outcomes**, where an individual has 26 cumulative weeks in employment over 52 weeks.

DWP CFO ESF provision was developed in consultation with LEPs to allow the provision to meet local needs. Most LEPs identified categories of eligible participants on which it wanted to focus<sup>4</sup>; depending on its local circumstances and priorities. Some LEPs also asked for particular activities to be included within the provision. At the start of the programme, some contracts had stricter eligibility than the rest, however, this resulted in a low level of referrals to some LEPS and eligibility has now been widened to increase participant volumes. The eight London contracts have their own unique eligibility requirements.

### What do these statistics show?

This document includes figures on starts and job outcomes for the ESF 14-20 programme, from September 2016, which marks the beginning of the contracts. The data has been taken from the Provider Referrals and Payments (PRaP) dataset. The June 2019 PRaP dataset has been used, with data on starts and outcomes taken up to the end of April 2019 to allow time for information to be entered onto the system.

<sup>2</sup> [More information on ESIFs and ESF](#)

<sup>3</sup> Some LEPS are split by Category of Region

<sup>4</sup> [Details on participant identification and eligibility](#)

# Starts to ESF 14-20

There have been 54,940 starts on the ESF 14-20 provision

Number of starts, by month of start, from September 2016 to April 2019



## Main Findings

There have been 54,940 starts to ESF 14-20 since September 2016.

The contracts were rolled out in three phases between September 2016 and February 2017, with two contracts launched in September 2016; a further 11 in December 2016; and the remaining 20 of the 31 contracts in February 2017.

This is clearly reflected in the number of starts per month, which rose substantially between September 2016 and March 2017 as all contracts became live and starting taking on participants.

From February to October 2018 there were over 2,000 starts each month.

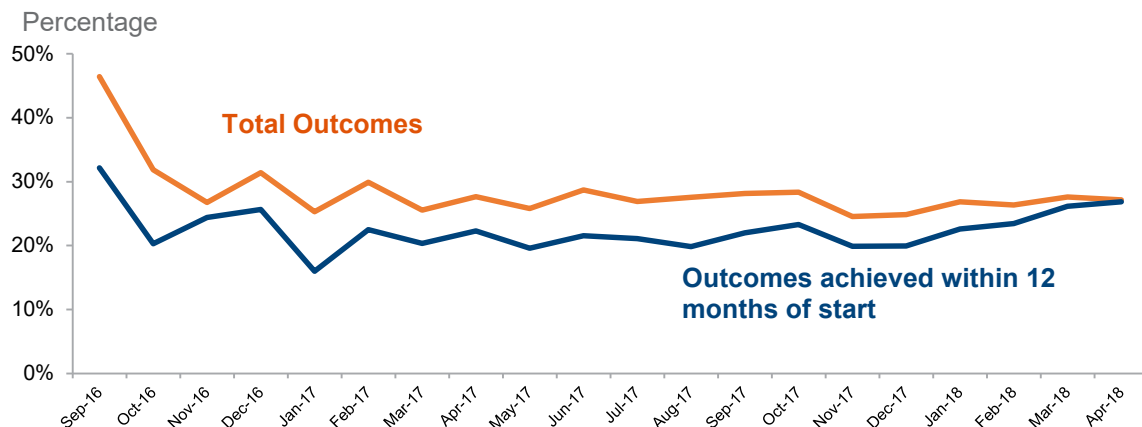
The contracts were set up to take on new participants for 24 months. After this they would take no new participants but continue to support existing customers. From September 2018 contracts began to reach the end of this 24-month period, leading to a decrease in starts. Around half of the contracts were extended to take on new participants for a further 24-month period, resulting in around 1,000 starts per month.

See **Table 1** for full data.

# Short and Sustained Job Outcomes

## 27% of starts up to April 2018 achieved a Short Job Outcome.

Proportion of starts achieving a Short Job Outcome, by month of start



### Main Findings

For starts up to April 2018, 27% (8,380) of participants achieved a Short Job Outcome. That means they were in work for 13 weeks in a 26-week consecutive period.

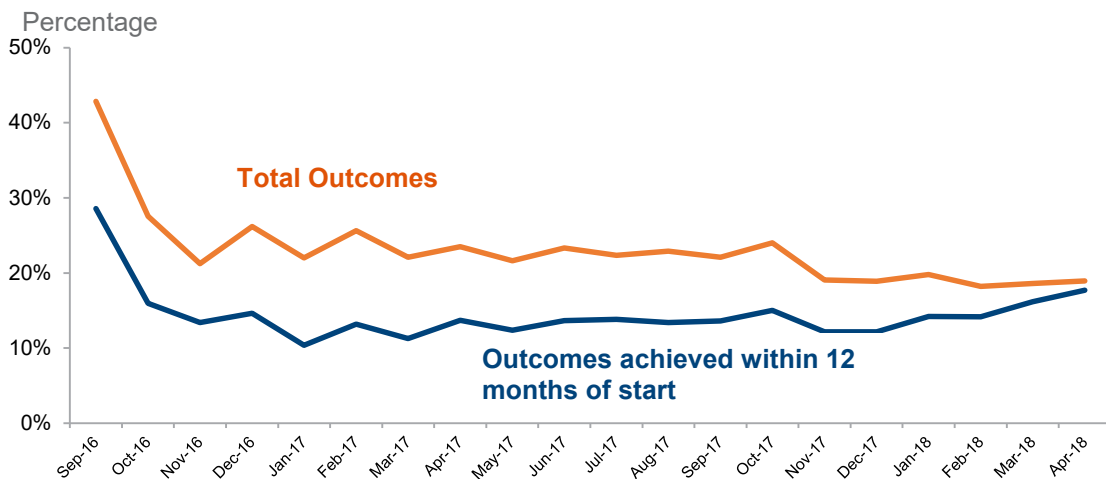
Of these, 82% (6,870 participants) achieved this within 12 months of their start date. This represents 19% of starts to the programme up to this point.

Note that in September 2016 the number of starts was substantially lower than the following months, resulting in a larger proportion of starts achieving outcomes.

See **Table 2** for full data.

## 21% of starts up to April 2018 achieved a Sustained Job Outcome.

Proportion of starts achieving a Sustained Job Outcome, by month of start



For starts up to April 2018, 21% (6,580) of participants achieved a Sustained Job Outcome. This means they were in work for 26 weeks in a 52-week consecutive period.

Of these, 66% (4,320 participants) achieved this within 12 months of their start date. This represents 12% of starts to the programme up to this point.

Only participants who started the programme up the end of April 2018 are included in these charts to ensure they have 12 months of performance to measure.

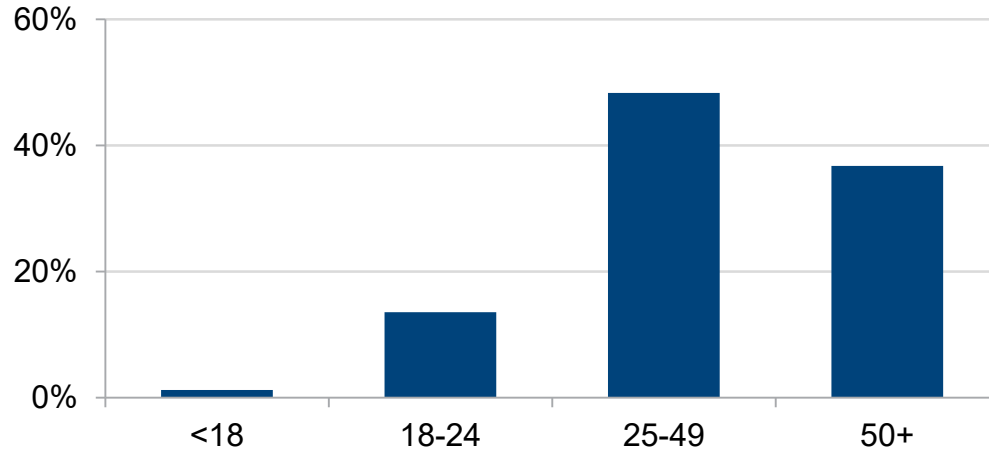
When including participants who started up to the end of April 2019, there were a total of 11,230 Short Job Outcomes and 7,730 Sustained Job Outcomes.

See **Table 3** for full data.

# Characteristics of people who started ESF 14-20

## Almost half of participants are aged between 25 and 49 years

Percentage, by age group



### Main Findings

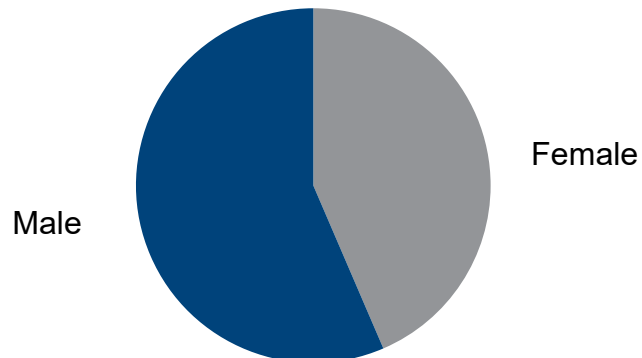
Almost half of all people starting the programme are aged between 25 and 49 years, with 48% (26,550 individuals) from this age group.

37% are aged over 50 years, with 20,180 people from this age group.

A further 14% (7,460 individuals) were aged 18 to 24, and just 1% (670) aged under 18.

## People starting ESF 14-20 are more likely to be male than female

Percentage, by gender

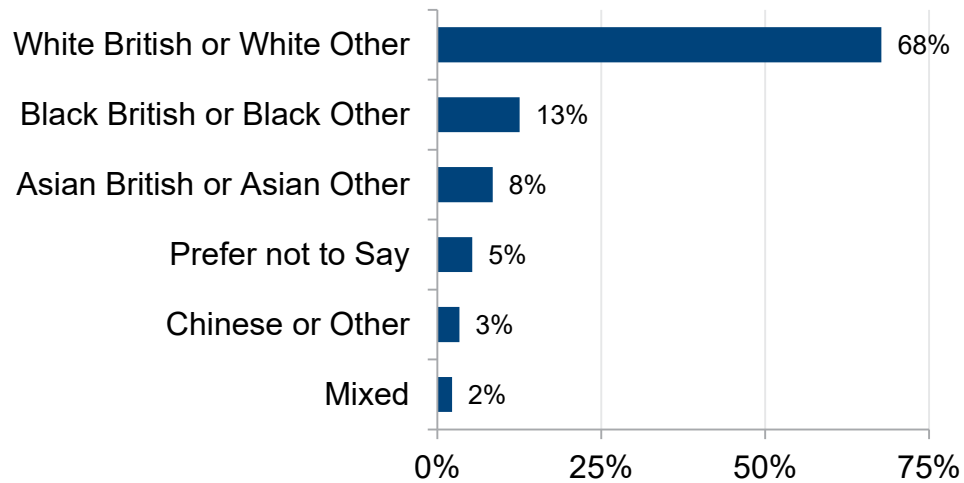


56% of all people starting the programme (30,960 individuals) are male, and 43% female (23,890 individuals).

See Table 4 for full data

## 27% of those starting ESF 14-20 identify as Black and Minority Ethnic

Percentage, by ethnicity



### Main Findings

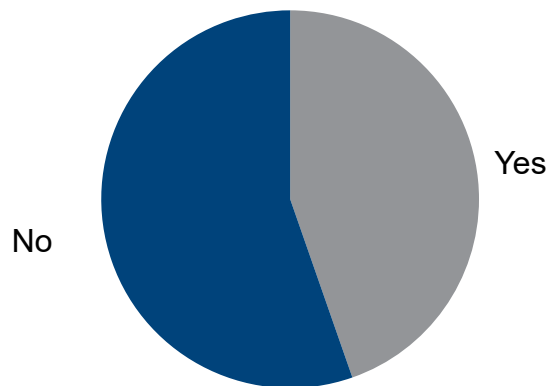
68% of people who started the programme identified as white (27,150 individuals). A further 27% identified as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) (10,660).

5% (2,140) of all starts preferred not to specify their ethnicity.

This does not include 14,860 individuals who were claiming Universal Credit, as ethnicity data is not available for these participants.

## 45% of participants have a self-declared disability

Percentage, by self-declared disability



45% of all starts (17,860 individuals) have a self-declared disability. 55% (22,140) did not declare a disability.

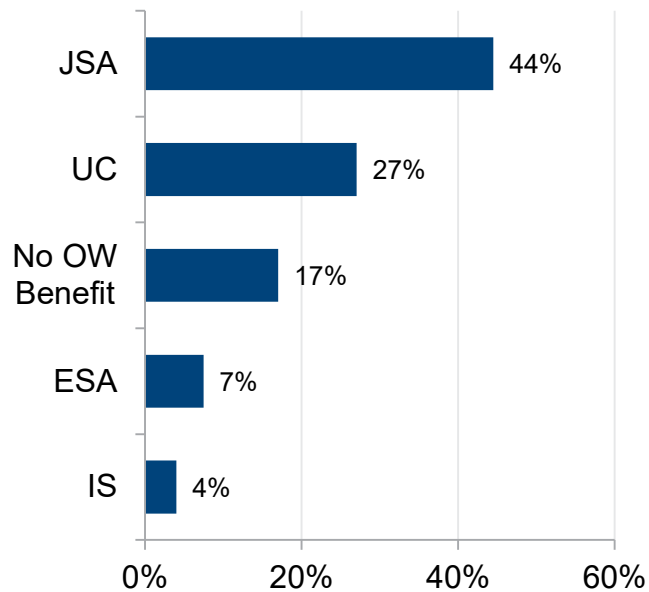
This does not include the 14,860 individuals who were claiming Universal Credit, as self-declared disability status is not available for these participants.

For full data see **Table 4**

# Main benefit of ESF 14-20 participants

## JSA and UC are the most common benefit types for ESF 14-20 participants

Percentage, by benefit type



### Main Findings

44% of all people who started the programme between September 2016 and April 2019 were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (24,450 individuals).

A further 27% (14,850) were claiming Universal Credit, 7% (4,100) claiming Employment and Support Allowance and 4% (2,200) claiming Income Support.

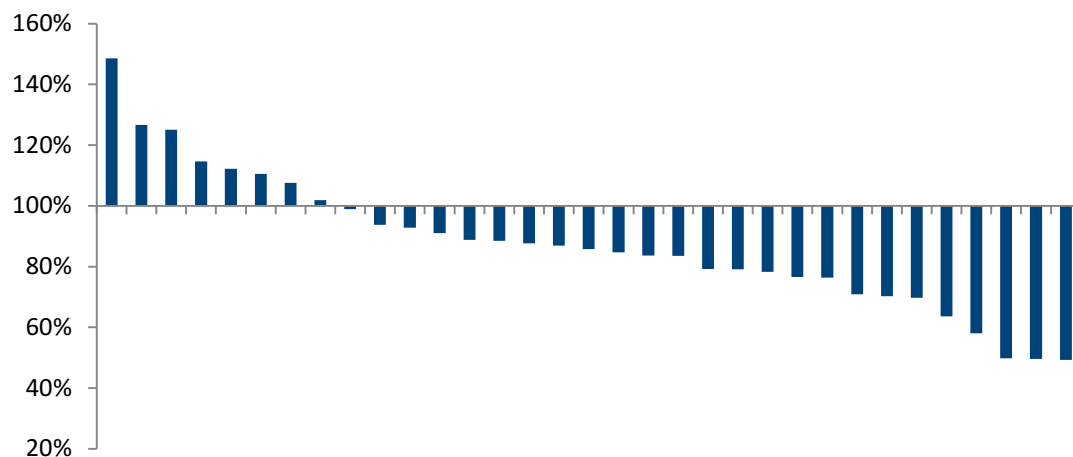
17% of participants (9,340) were not claiming an out of work benefit when they started the provision.

For full data see **Table 5**.

# ESF 14-20: Contractual Performance

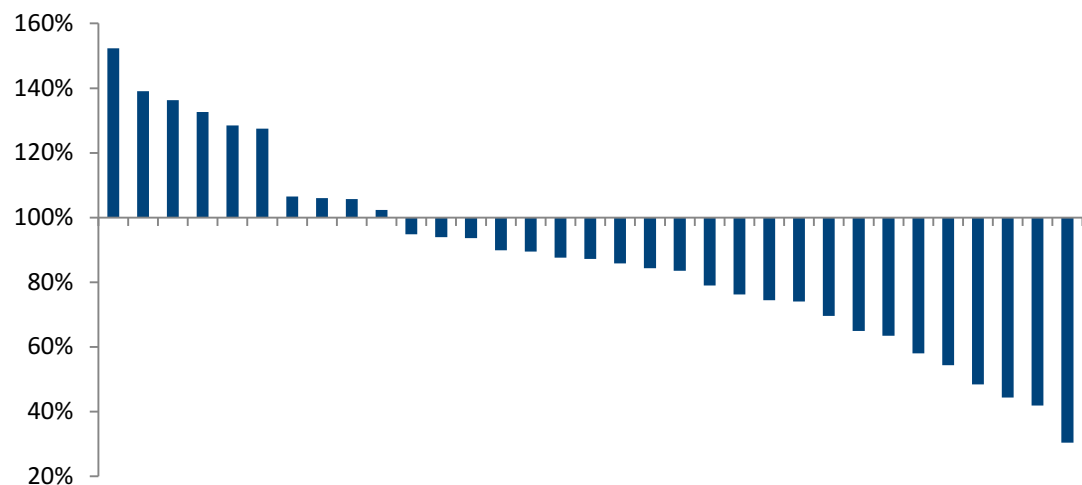
## Short job outcomes contractual performance

Actual performance as a percentage of expected performance, May 2018 to April 2019



## Sustained job outcomes contractual performance

Actual performance as a percentage of expected performance May 2018 to April 2019



### Main Findings

ESF 14-20 contracts went live in stages between September 2016 and February 2017.

The providers have an expected performance level for the amount of Short and Sustained Job Outcomes they are expected to achieve each month. Actual performance is measured against this expected performance level. The performance shown here is actual performance as a percentage of expected performance for 12-month period May 2018 to April 2019.

There are 31 contracts in total. Two of these are split into two categories for reporting purposes, hence there appear to be 33 contracts in the performance expectation charts and tables.

Over the period May 2018 to April 2019, eight contracts met or exceeded their expected number of Short Job Outcomes, getting people in work for at least 13 out of 26 weeks.

Over the period May 2018 to April 2019, nine contracts met or exceeded their expected number of Sustained Job Outcomes, getting people in work for at least 26 out of 52 weeks. This included one of the contracts split in two, hence there appear to be ten exceeding contracts in the chart.

See **Table 6** for full data on expected and actual performance levels for each contract.



# About these statistics

## Statistical Products

This statistical summary gives an overview of the European Social Fund 2014-2020 contracted employment provision operated by DWP as a Co-Financing Organisation. Key points and trends are presented using charts and commentary. The information underlying the charts is available in our [supporting tables](#).

Data for these statistics is derived from the DWP Provider Referrals and Payments System (PRaP); Labour Market Systems Opportunities Dataset; National Benefit Database; Universal Credit Official Statistics Dataset; and Client Extract Data.

Some data within this publication may be subject to revisions. For more information on the revisions policy see the ESF 14-20: Background Information Note. Percentages in this publication are rounded to the nearest integer. Percentages may not always sum to 100% due to missing values in the data.

## Experimental Statistics

Experimental statistics are official statistics which are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision making.

## Where to find out more

### ESF 14-20 Programme and Statistics

Our [background information note](#) provides further information on DWP's European Social Fund 2014 - 2020 programme, and the ESF 14-20 Statistics.

Further information about the ESF 14-20 programme is available in the [DWP Provider Guidance](#)

For more information about how DWP operates as one of the co-financing organisations for the ESF programme see [DWP's role as an ESF CFO](#).

### Other Statistical Releases

DWP publishes statistics for a wide range of employment support schemes, including Access to Work, New Enterprise Allowance, Specialist Employability Support, Work Choice, Work Programme, and the Work and Health Programme. [View the full collection](#).

## Contact information and feedback

For more information on ESF 14-20 statistics, please contact Kate Shires at [kate.shires@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:kate.shires@dwp.gov.uk) or Giovanna Mollo at [Giovanna.mollo@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:Giovanna.mollo@dwp.gov.uk). DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at [stats-consultation@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gov.uk).

## Annex: ESF 14-20 Provision Providers

Cohort	Provider	Local Enterprise Partnership Region
1	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough
1	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Hertfordshire
2	IXION	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding
2	LEARN DIRECT	Gloucestershire
2	PLUSS	Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield
2	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Bradford & Leeds
2	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Cornwall
2	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	South East
2	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Stoke and Staffordshire
2	THE GROWTH COMPANY	Liverpool (More Developed)
2	THE GROWTH COMPANY	Liverpool (Transitional)
2	WORKING LINKS	Dorset
2	WORKING LINKS	Leicestershire
3	G4S	Central London Older Workers
3	G4S	Cumbria
3	G4S	Lancashire
3	PINNACLE PEOPLE	South London Older Workers
3	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	Coventry and Warwickshire
3	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	North and East London Older Workers
3	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	West London Older Workers
3	REMPLOY	Cheshire and Warrington
3	WORKING LINKS*	North East (More Developed)
3	WORKING LINKS*	North East (Transitional)
3	WORKING LINKS*	Swindon and Wiltshire
4a	KENNEDY SCOTT	Coast to Capital
4a	MAXIMUS	Humber (including Greater Lincolnshire)
4a	MAXIMUS	South East Midlands
4a	WORKING LINKS*	Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
4a	WORKING LINKS*	Northamptonshire
4b	G4S	Central London Families
4b	G4S	West London Families
4b	REED IN PARTNERSHIP	South London Families
4b	SERCO	North and East London Families

- Cohort 1 launched in September 2016
- Cohort 2 launched in December 2016
- Cohorts 3 and 4 launched in February 2017

\*Working Links entered administration in 2019 and contracts were subsequently taken over by Fedcap.