



# INCLUSIVE GROWTH LEEDS 2023-2030

Work and Health Consultation  
Wed, Apr 30, 2025

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**Background and purpose**

**Work , health and skills fund update**

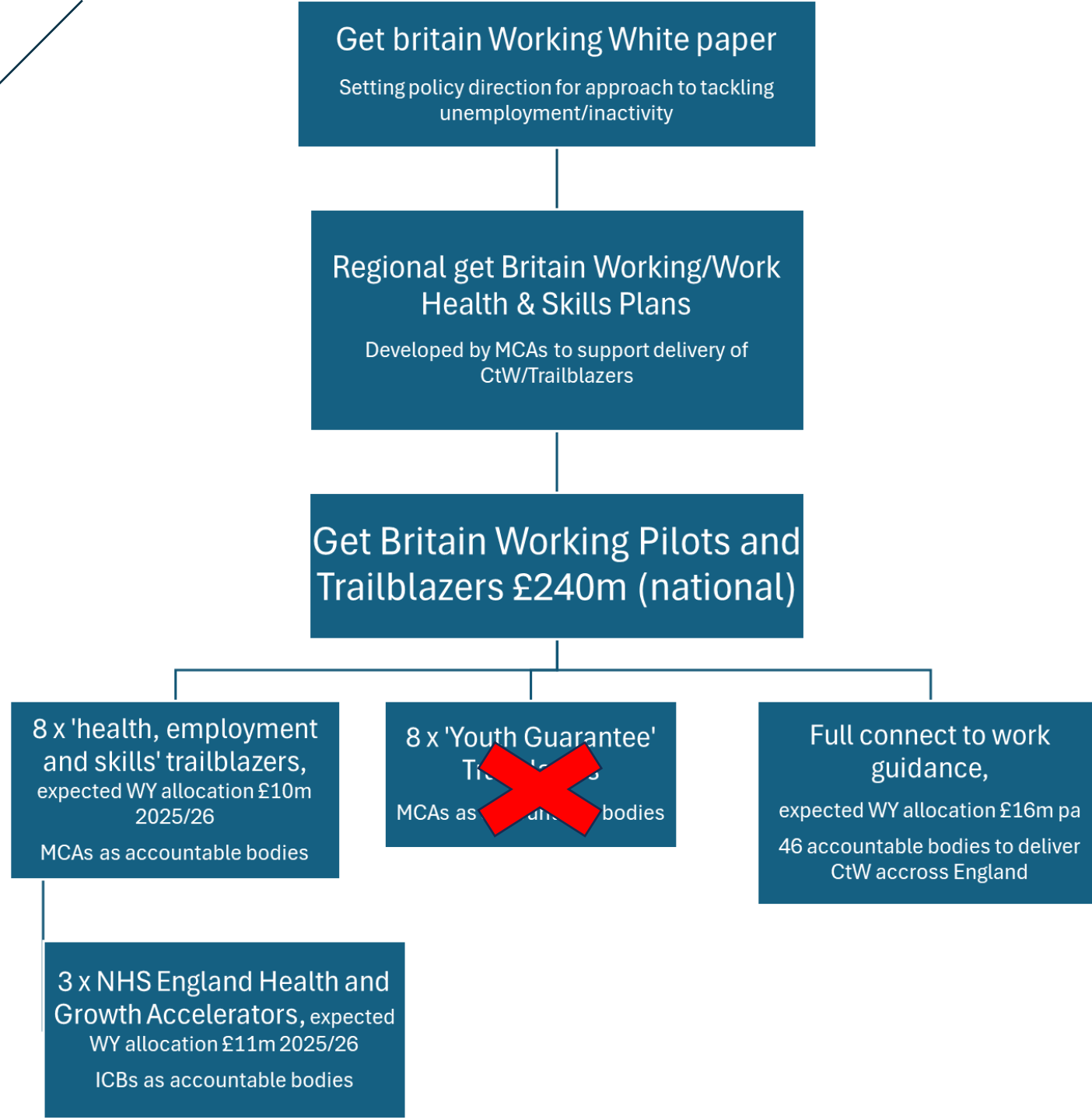
**Next steps and expected timescales**

**Polls**

**Connect to Work update**

**Q &A**

## Policy background



DWP Health and  
Employment Trailblazer

£ 10 million for West  
Yorkshire

12 month period

West Yorkshire Combined  
Authority as Accountable  
body

- Primary focus on supporting people who have **significant health conditions and are economically inactive.**

## Objectives of the Trailblazers

The three key objectives of economically inactive trailblazers are to:

- Maximise the reach, effectiveness and impact of the range of existing services that could support people who are economically inactive to participate in the labour market
- Test new and innovative approaches to:
  - Identifying and engaging people who are economically inactive
  - Supporting people who are economically inactive to participate in the labour market; and
- Provide a platform for longer-term systems reform, to deliver a coherent, joined-up local work, health and skills offer.



# WY Work , Health and Skills plan

- In September 2024, the Combined Authority working with Local Authorities commissioned Kada Research to develop the Work and Health Plan
- Key focus on gathering the voices of seldom-heard groups to co-design interventions focussed on removing health-related barriers to work. This is being overseen by a steering group of Combined and Local Authority and Integrated Care Board officers.
- The final version of this report was adopted by the Combined Authority in 2025
- The plan will **inform future commissioning of employment support** programmes with a focus in economic inactivity to improve outcomes for individuals with work and health barriers.



# WY Work , Health and Skills plan



The plan will inform future commissioning of employment support programmes with a focus in economic inactivity to improve outcomes for individuals with work and health barriers

"Continued backing of VCSE sector as delivery partners and providers of holistic support including pre-employment support, support to those at risk of leaving work, and the identification/engagement of individuals with lived experience of economic inactivity and socio-economic inequality "

# WHS design principles on VCSE

Direct grant funding into VCSE organisations

More people from priority groups access support, leading to better employment and skills outcomes.

Deliver wraparound support that tackles the wider barriers to employment—such as mental health or digital skills



Direct grant funding into VCSE organisations

Use local knowledge to understand the specific barriers faced by different groups

Engage marginalised and underrepresented groups in ways that statutory services may struggle with



# Work Health and Skills VCSE fund in Leeds

- **Subject to approval Fund of approx. £ 800 K to be spent this FY ( from a £ 3 M regional pot )**
- A programme of **grants** to be developed allowing Local organisations to **apply** for funding
- The initiative aims to support residents **progressing towards employment** and also **maintaining employment**.
- Due to the short-term nature of the funding, there is an expectation that funding will be used to **scale up existing innovative** interventions that are well evaluated
- A proportion of the funding may be focused **to pilot new activities** and innovative approached which may not been trailed before to test their application in a real life setting.
- Decision made by a panel compromising of LA officers , place-based ICB colleges, Local Job Centre Plus, VCSE reps , and the Leeds Health and Care Academy and will have oversight of the performance of funded projects

# Work Health and Skills VCSE fund in Leeds

Priority will be given to projects targeting young people, residents of deprived wards, care leavers, older workers with low skill levels or physically demanding jobs, individuals with caring responsibilities, lone parents, ex-offenders, and people experiencing homelessness.

Projects must tackle key reasons for economic inactivity due to ill health

- Mental health
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Cardiovascular
- 3 main reasons
- Progressive illness not included elsewhere (for example, cancer, multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy)
  - autism (including Autism Spectrum Condition, Asperger syndrome)
  - difficulty in seeing (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses)
  - difficulty in hearing
  - epilepsy
  - severe or specific learning difficulties
  - speech impediment
  - severe disfigurement, skin condition, allergies
    - other problems or disabilities please state

# Work Health and Skills VCSE fund in Leeds

- Application pack and form to be circulated
- Detailed guidance
- Providing details of the support you are looking to offer
- Who ,where and when
- Numbers of people you will be supporting and outputs and outcomes
- How it aligns with the ambition to support economically inactive people or those at risk
- Grant cost register
- Compliance checks

**Don't assume we know .... We don't**

# Work Health and Skills VCSE fund in Leeds

## - things to consider

- DWP - over 18 – but asking for flexibility - working age
- No duplication with other funding ( including Accelerator )
- Maximum intervention rate we envisage to be around £ 2.5K but need to demonstrate value for money
- Short time scales to measure success
- Incentives not to be funded
- Need to address both Health and work .
- Need to collect data, provide evidence and be part of an evaluation.

# Trailblazer Inactivity Data

## Economic Inactivity Trailblazer

- Participant names, address, DOB, sex, NI number
- Dates participants contacted, started support, ended support
- Employment history and status at start, during and at end of support.
- Engagement in formal training at start and end of support
- Disability status and other barriers to work
- Benefits claiming and time spent inactive / NEET
- Historic Special Educational Needs and ESOL flags
- Information on other disadvantages or caring responsibilities

## Next steps

Take info from today to fine tune the fund and fill in the details

Send out application packs

Approval from WYCA ) 8<sup>th</sup> May

LA to enter into a funding agreement with WYCA

Issue grant agreements to successful applicants

Deliver and evaluate

# Polls

# Connect to Work So Far

- DWP grant guidance officially launched [Connect to Work: Grant Guidance for England - GOV.UK](#)
- WYCA formally commence the delivery plan development with LA input
- The West Yorkshire delivery plan is approved by WYCA and submitted
- DWP approved plan - Grant agreements are put in place between WYCA and DWP
- WYCA begin local implementation based on approved delivery plan
- Grant agreements between WYCA and local delivery partners
- Delivery commences in West Yorkshire



# Connect to Work Update

WYCA formally commence the delivery plan development with LA input :

- **Mixed (both in-house and commissioned)** -This would include regional coordination by WYCA. Direct delivery from LA staff and option for LAs to commission providers in their area (where needed/required) and one or multiple providers to be commissioned at a regional level – to meet overall need
- Plan to start engagement once WYCA plan is approved ( subject to DWP approval )

# Q & A

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