

# An overview of NHS and local government funding for work, health and skills

- We estimate that **145,000 people a year leave work due to their health condition.**
- Work is generally good for health, public services and the wider economy, yet **2.8 million people are currently economically inactive due to long-term sickness** (not in work and not looking for work).
- This means that **millions of people are not able to reap the physical and mental benefits of employment.**
- **A whole-system approach is needed** to prevent people falling out of work and to address the root causes of economic inactivity.
- These slides provide an **overview of the key government work, health and skills funding available to the NHS and local government** to support local areas to integrate and build on existing work, health and skills support.
- Future funding will be agreed through the government **Spending Review process.**
- This information is provided **for illustrative purposes only** and may not reflect the most current data or developments. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, details may have changed since the time of writing.
- For more information contact: **[Eloise.Crockett@nhsconfed.org](mailto:Eloise.Crockett@nhsconfed.org)**

# Key funding available to the NHS for work, health and skills

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total funding amount	Funding timeline
<b>WorkWell leadership funding</b> to secure additional leadership capacity focused on local work, health and skills integration and strategy development in ICSs.	All ICSs	£89,000 per ICS	Financial year (FY) 24/25
<b>WorkWell</b> provides low intensity holistic support for health-related barriers to employment, and a single joined-up gateway to existing local work and health service provision.	15 ICSs: Birmingham and Solihull; Black Country; Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; Coventry and Warwickshire; Frimley; Herefordshire and Worcestershire; Greater Manchester; Lancashire and South Cumbria; Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; North Central London; North West London; South Yorkshire; Surrey Heartlands	£64 million	FY 24/25 and 25/26  Services went live from October 2024
<b>Health and growth accelerators ('accelerators')</b> will have two interrelated missions: to improve population health outcomes and increase economic growth by reducing health-related labour market inactivity.	3 ICSs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Yorkshire</li> <li>• South Yorkshire</li> <li>• North East and North Cumbria.</li> </ul> <p>These areas are also receiving economic inactivity trailblazer funding through their mayoral strategic authorities (see slide 5)</p>	£45 million	FY 25/26

# Key funding available to the NHS for work, health and skills (cont...)

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total funding amount	Funding timeline
<p><b>Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Further Faster 20 programme</b> is providing focused clinical and operational support to 20 trusts in areas of high economic inactivity due to long-term sickness of the working-age population.</p>	20 trusts listed <a href="#">on the Gov.UK website</a>	£1.2 million	FY 24/25
<p><b><u>Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Musculoskeletal (MSK) Community Delivery Programme</u></b> to address the worst waiting lists for MSK conditions as one of the biggest drivers of health-related economic inactivity.</p>	17 ICSs: Birmingham and Solihull; Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; Cheshire and Merseyside; Cornwall; Devon; Dorset; Greater Manchester; Hampshire and Isle of Wight; Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland; Norfolk and Waveney; North Central London; North East and North Cumbria; North East London; Northamptonshire; Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin; Sussex.	£3.5 million	FY 24/25
<p><b>Employment advisers (EAs) in MSK Pathways</b> will introduce EAs in MSK condition service pathways in England, helping individuals with MSK conditions to return to or remain in employment.</p>	TBC	TBC	TBC
<p><b>MSK Physical Activity Hubs</b> to deliver physical activity-based interventions via non-HCPs within community and leisure settings outside of but aligned with primary and secondary care; enabling referral from and signposting to local employment support services.</p>	<p>There will be a competitive process to identify provider to design, develop and implement MSK Physical activity Hubs, as well as work with existing providers of MSK Hubs.</p> <p>New MSK Physical activity Hubs will be focused in areas of deprivation.</p>	TBC	TBC

# Key funding available to the NHS for work, health and skills (cont...)

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total funding amount	Funding timeline
<p><b>Employment advisers in NHS Talking Therapies</b> enables NHS Talking Therapy patients to access combined therapeutic treatment and employment support to help them return to or remain in work and improve their mental health.</p>	<p>EAs in NHS TT will have expanded from 40% of NHS Talking Therapies sites in 2022 to almost 99% of sites by March 2025.</p> <p>This expansion has involved the recruitment of over 700 additional employment advisers.</p>	£49.1 million	FY 24/25
<p><b><u>Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for Severe Mental Illness</u></b> is an evidence-based programme that supports individuals with severe mental illness find and maintain competitive employment by integrating personalised job support with mental health services.</p>	All ICSs	£200 million	FY 23/24 – 28/29

# Key funding available to local government for work, health and skills

All local areas will develop a Get Britain Working plan focused on reducing economic inactivity. Plans will be developed by mayoral strategic authorities (formerly mayoral combined authorities) where they exist – aligned with their local growth plans – and elsewhere by groups of local authorities. Local authorities will develop their plans working in partnership with key local stakeholders. **It is crucial that integrated care systems work with local government to strategically embed health in these plans as strategic commissioners and as major local employers.** For more information read our [Get Britain Working white paper briefing](#).

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total funding amount	Funding timeline
<b>Inactivity trailblazers</b> will bring together and streamline health, employment and skills services to improve the support available for people who are economically inactive.	8 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Yorkshire Combined Authority</li> <li>• West Yorkshire Combined Authority</li> <li>• North East Combined Authority</li> <li>• Greater Manchester Combined Authority</li> <li>• Wales</li> <li>• York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority</li> <li>• 2 London sub-regional partnerships</li> </ul>	£80 million	FY 25/26
<b>Youth guarantee trailblazers</b> will test new ways of supporting young people into employment or training.	8 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liverpool City Region Combined Authority</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority</li> <li>• Tees Valley Combined Authority</li> <li>• East Midlands Combined Authority</li> <li>• Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority</li> <li>• West of England Combined Authority</li> <li>• 2 London sub-regional partnerships</li> </ul>	£45 million	FY 25/26
<b>Non-trailblazer area funding</b> to support areas to develop their Get Britain Working Plan focused on reducing economic inactivity.	Local authorities in non-trailblazer areas	Up to £15 million	FY 25/26

# Key funding available to local government for work, health and skills (cont...)

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total Funding Amount	Funding timeline
<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)</b> provides all areas of the UK with funding to invest across three investment priorities – community and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.	Accountable bodies are listed <a href="#">on the Gov.UK website</a>	2025/26 allocations <a href="#">linked here</a>	April 2022 - March 2026
<b>Connect to Work</b> is a forthcoming locally-led supported employment programme that will match people with disabilities, health conditions and complex barriers to employment to vacancies and supporting them to succeed in their roles.	Accountable bodies are listed <a href="#">on the Gov.UK website</a>	£115m investment in Connect to Work for 25/26 - further years to be agreed through the Spending Review.	National rollout in a phased approach lead by Local Authorities' own timetables throughout spring/summer/autumn 2025
<b>Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC)</b> is a supported employment programme with referrals from primary healthcare professionals, aimed at supporting disabled people and those with health conditions.	IPSPC services are being delivered across 42 upper tier local authorities in England and two health boards in Wales.  Connect to Work will expand the use of the proven five-stage Supported Employment model of 'place, train and maintain', used in the successful local delivery of Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC). To support a smooth transition to Connect to Work, areas delivering IPSPC in England have been offered the opportunity to extend referrals up to September 2025.	£2.1 million	FY 24/25

# Key funding available to local government for work, health and skills (cont...)

Description	Confirmed local areas	Total funding amount	Funding timeline
<b>Individual placement and support for drug and alcohol dependence</b> provides employment support alongside clinical treatment, making employment a key aim of recovery.	All upper tier/unitary/metropolitan local authorities barring (currently) Devon, Somerset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley.	£20.2m	FY 24/25
<b>Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Workplace Health Checks</b> is a pilot scheme aiming to deliver up to 130,000 cardiovascular disease (CVD) checks in workplaces by end of March 2025. These checks will spot the early signs of heart disease and provide people with the information they need to reduce their risk of having a heart attack, stroke or developing diabetes.	45 schemes being delivered across 48 local authorities following an open invitation for expressions of interest.	£5.3m	FY 24/25
<b>Plan for Neighbourhoods</b> is a programme to invest in 75 areas over the next decade – a long-term strategy to fix the foundations of those places most left behind.	<u>75 local authorities and communities</u> across the UK.	£1.5 billion  Each community will receive funding and support totalling up to £20 million	FY 25/26 – FY 35/36