



Healthy Working Life Supported Employment - Connect to Work Market Engagement



West
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Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



Welcome to the Healthy Working Life Supported Employment – Connect to Work Market Engagement session

Please bear with us while we admit attendees to the meeting. The session will begin shortly.

Please note:

- The meeting will be recorded and shared with all attendees after the session.
- The presentation slides will also be shared.
- Guest microphones are muted, but feel free to join the conversation via the chat.
- Please submit any questions through the Q&A function. Responses will be shared following the event.

Thank you for your patience and active participation.



Welcome and agenda

Andrew Milner, Inclusive Economy Lead

Agenda and aim

Aim: To provide an update on the upcoming Connect to Work procurement opportunity, which will support delivery of the West Yorkshire Healthy Working Life Supported Employment programme.

No.	Item	Lead
1	Welcome	Andrew Milner
2	The West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Andrew Milner
3	The West Yorkshire Economy	Peter Glover
4	Healthy Working Life and the Work and Health Plan	Andrew Milner
5	Overview and Purpose of the Healthy Working Life Supported Employment Tender (funded by Connect to Work)	Anna Myers
6	West Yorkshire Combined Authority Procurement Process	Phill Monk
7	Next steps and contact details	Andrew Milner
8	Close	Andrew Milner



The West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Andrew Milner, Inclusive Economy Lead

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

We bring together the five local authority areas of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield to prioritise issues that affect our region including transport, housing, environment, skills and the economy.

- Statutory duties
- Government requirement
- What it makes sense to do at West Yorkshire level



A brighter West Yorkshire that works for all

Mission:

The Combined Authority brings together the local authorities of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Working in partnership, we develop and deliver policies, programmes and services which directly benefit the people of West Yorkshire.

Vision:

Our vision is to create a brighter West Yorkshire that works for all. We want our region to be healthier, happier and wealthier. A region that is better connected, with an affordable, reliable and efficient public transport network. A region that is safer and more sustainable. A region where equity, diversity and inclusion are present across all aspects of society.



Our five missions

Mission 1: A prosperous West Yorkshire

An inclusive economy with well paid jobs

Mission 2: A happy West Yorkshire

Great places and healthy communities

Mission 3: A well-connected West Yorkshire

A strong transport system

Mission 4: A sustainable West Yorkshire

Making lives greener

Mission 5: A safe West Yorkshire

A region where everyone can flourish



The West Yorkshire Plan

A brighter West Yorkshire that works for all



The West Yorkshire Economy

Peter Glover, Economic Evidence Manager

Economic Context

- West Yorkshire faces interlinked challenges related to health and employment.
- Economic inactivity is a key constraint on economic growth and access to opportunity in West Yorkshire.
- A key component of this is inactivity due to long-term sickness.
- The number of people with disability / health condition is growing and many of this group are in employment.
- Individuals face significant challenges in getting into or staying in employment.
- Population ageing will intensify future challenges around inactivity.



Healthy Working Life and the Work and Health Plan

Andrew Milner, Inclusive Economy Lead

Healthy Working Life Programme

Healthy Working Life is a joint programme of West Yorkshire Combined Authority and NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), delivering the region's Work and Health Plan.

The Work and Health Plan

The vision for the Work and Health Plan is for West Yorkshire to have the healthiest residents and workforce in England by 2040.

Within this vision, the Plan has a clear objective:

To reduce economic inactivity and health and socio-economic inequalities by supporting more residents with health conditions and disabilities to access or keep good quality work.



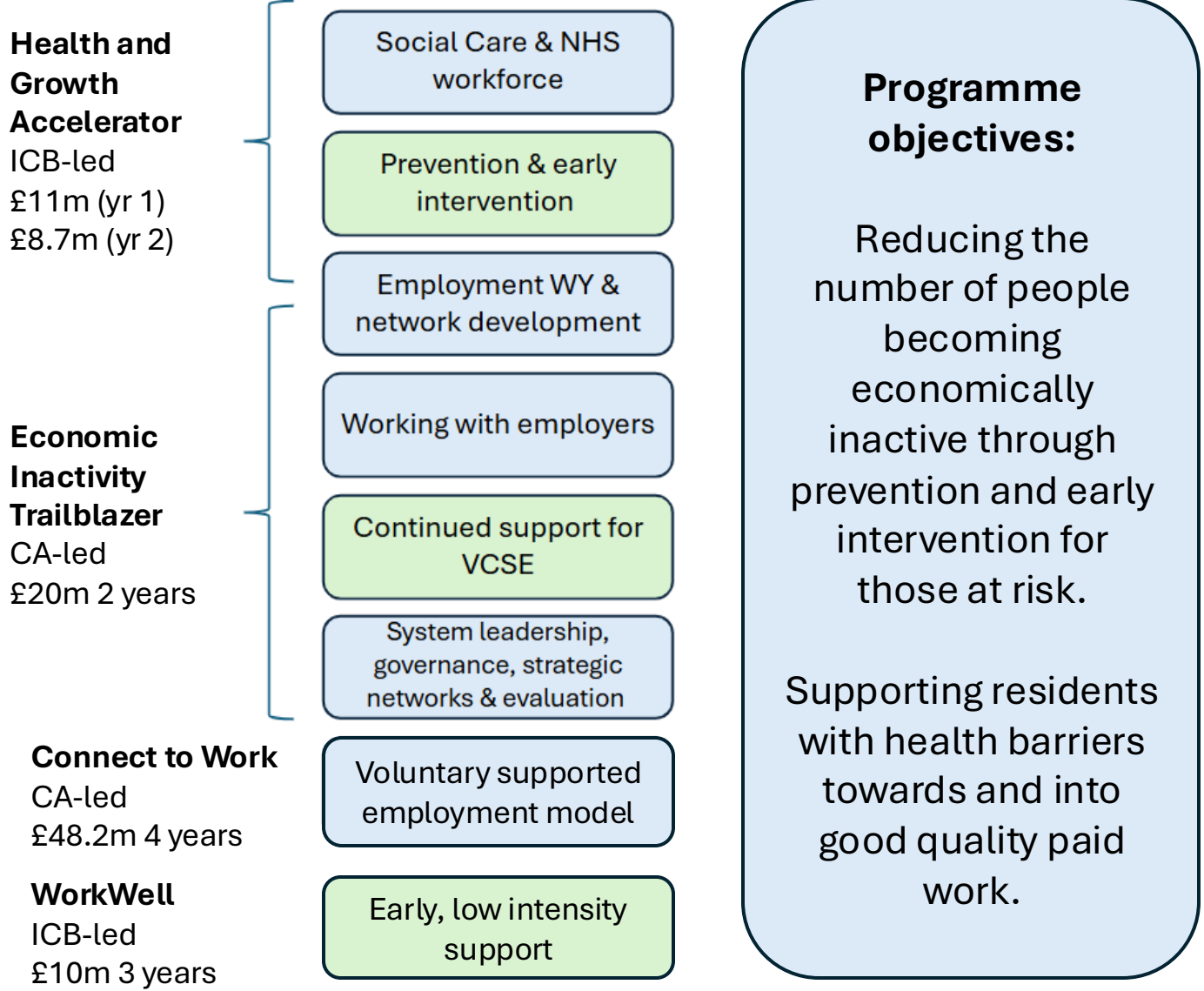
Work and health plan

A Kada Research report for West Yorkshire Combined Authority

KADA 

 West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire











Healthy Working Life Programme Activities



West Yorkshire Resources

Inclusive Employer Toolkit

Inclusive Employment Toolkit modules

 <p>Health and wellbeing at work</p> 	 <p>Inclusive recruiting and onboarding</p> 	 <p>Leadership and workplace culture</p> 	 <p>Legal and policy guidance</p> 	 <p>Neurodiversity and disability inclusion</p> 
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Fair Work Charter





Overview and Purpose of the Healthy Working Life Supported Employment Tender (funded by Connect to Work)

Anna Myers, Policy and Partnerships Lead

This section will cover:

1. The Opportunity
2. The Connect to Work Programme
3. The West Yorkshire Delivery Model
4. Eligibility and Suitability
5. Outputs and Outcomes
6. Indicative Timelines
7. Organisational Collaboration



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The Opportunity

Overview

- The Combined Authority seeks to appoint a Lead Service Provider to establish and deliver a high-fidelity Individual Placement and Support (IPS) service across West Yorkshire.
- The Provider must ensure that all delivery - whether direct or through subcontractors or consortium partners is fully compliant with [Connect to Work national guidance](#).
- The appointed Provider will be responsible for supporting a minimum of 9,276 residents to access personalised, high-fidelity supported employment, in line with the IPS model.
- The total value of this opportunity is up to £23,190,000, up to March 2030.

Purpose

- Healthy Working Life Supported Employment (funded via Connect to Work) aims to enable residents with health conditions, disabilities and complex barriers to secure and maintain sustainable employment through personalised Supported Employment.



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The Connect to Work Programme

- A DWP funded national programme, and a key part of the Government's Get Britain Working Strategy and the West Yorkshire Healthy Working Life Programme
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority is the accountable body for the region
- The voluntary supported employment programme will help disabled people, people with health conditions, and those with more complex barriers to work, to find a suitable job and sustain work.
- It will also help those in work but at risk of falling out of the labour market to retain their employment.
- Delivered through a Supported Employment 'place, train and maintain' model, with fidelity assurance:
 - Individual Placement and Support (IPS)
 - Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)
- A strong focus on employer engagement and job matching – creating opportunities, supporting reasonable adjustments, job carving and changes to recruitment practices



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The West Yorkshire Delivery Model

West Yorkshire					
	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Local Authority Place Based Delivery	SEQF	SEQF	SEQF	SEQF + IPS	SEQF + IPS
Regional delivery (Procurement opportunity)					

Delivery to date:

Soft launch completed
(February 2026)

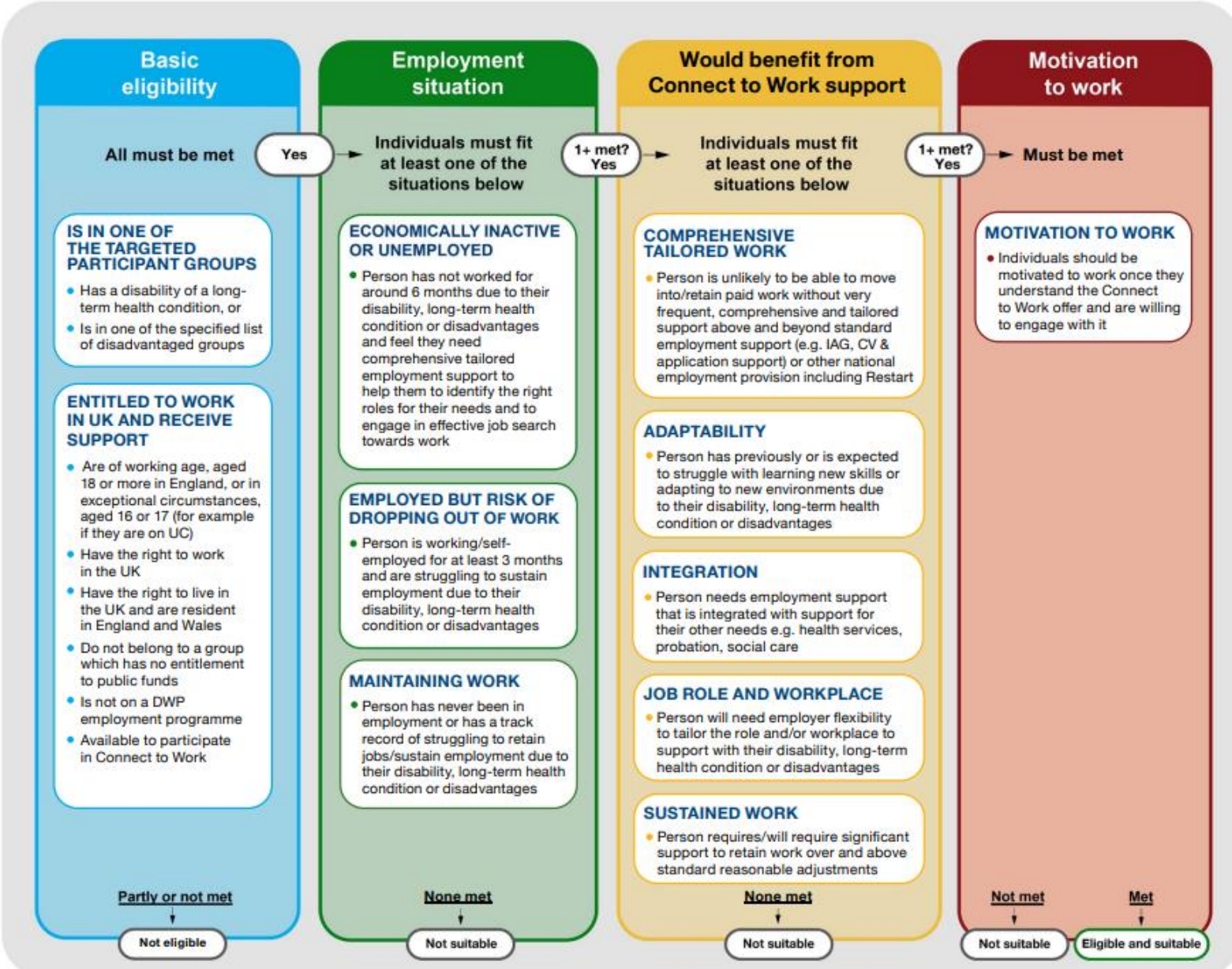
Local Authority delivery
commenced (February
2026)

Integrated into West
Yorkshire Integrated
Settlement (April 2026)

CRM system developed

Marketing partner
appointed

Eligibility and Suitability



This diagram is taken from the Connect to Work grant guidance ([Annex B: Eligibility and Suitability](#)).

Outputs and Outcomes

Programme Starts: Achieve a minimum of 9,276 Programme Starts, ensuring participants are eligible, suitable and able to benefit from high-fidelity IPS.

First Earnings (Out of Work Participants): At least 50% of Out of Work Programme Starts to achieve first earnings within 456 days, or 638 days where an extension applies.

Lower Threshold Job Outcomes (Out of Work Participants): At least 40% of Out of Work Programme Starts to achieve a Lower Threshold Job Outcome (9 hrs × 13 weeks × NLW, or self-employment equivalent) within 456 days, or 638 days if extended.

Higher Threshold Job Outcomes (Out of Work Participants): At least 29% of Out of Work Programme Starts to achieve a Higher Threshold Job Outcome (18 hrs × 26 weeks × NLW, or self-employment equivalent) within 456 days, or 638 days if extended.

Higher Threshold Outcomes for In Work Participants: At least 80% of In Work Retention Support Participants to achieve a Higher Threshold Job Outcome (18 hrs × 26 weeks × NLW, including self-employed equivalents) within 365 days.

To achieve and maintain high fidelity to the IPS delivery model, demonstrated through participation in and successful outcomes from required fidelity assessments.

*There is further detail on performance measures within the national Connect to Work guidance [here](#).

Local Authority	Participants
Bradford	2,670
Calderdale	902
Kirklees	2,007
Leeds	2,738
Wakefield	959
Totals Overall	9,276



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Indicative Procurement Timescales

Procurement Activity Timetable	
Activity	Expected Completion Date
Publication of FTS Notice and tender documents (tender period begins)	June 2026
Deadline for receipt of bids (tender period closes)	July 2026
Evaluation Announcement	August 2026
Contract Start Date	From September 2026
Contract End Date	31 March 2030

As this procurement is currently in development, timelines are subject to change.

Organisation Collaboration

- Opportunity to connect and collaborate with other providers
- Option to share contact details to support partnership working
- To take part, complete the collaboration survey [here](#)
- Deadline Friday **29th May**
- Responses will be collated and shared with others who have completed the form.

Please note: By submitting your details, you consent to them being shared with other contacts who completed the form for the purpose of this collaboration exercise.



West Yorkshire Combined Authority Commercial Process

Phill Monk, Commercial Lead

Route to Market & Procurement Process

- Route to market: Open procedure
- Procurement Approach: single stage tender process to appoint a Lead Provider to deliver Individual Placement and Support (IPS) service across the West Yorkshire
- Scope of opportunity: one contract (single Lot) covering IPS delivery, with an expectation that a significant proportion of delivery will be subcontracted or delivered through a consortium, including VCSE partners.
- Indicative tender period: the tender is expected to remain open for approximately four weeks, during which bidders may submit clarification questions and their tender submissions

*****Please Note: This procurement is still in the development stages, therefore, timescales are subject to change*****

Tender Portal Registration

- In order to access the opportunity all suppliers will need to have registered on our e-tendering system, YORtender
- All documents will only be made available to download via YORtender
- To register click the following link: <https://yortender.eu-supply.com/> and click the 'New Supplier Registration' button on the left side bar
- General queries to: Commercialteam@westyorks-ca.gov.uk



Communication

- Once a tender is live, all communication must be via the YORtender portal. This applies through all stages of the tender process, from clarification to award.
- Tender clarifications will be shared via the YORtender portal with all interested bidders to ensure fairness and transparency.
- Timescales apply to each stage of the process. Be aware of the clarification period end date.





Next steps and contact details

Andrew Milner, Inclusive Economy Lead

Contact Details

West Yorkshire Local Authorities:

Bradford City Council

Calderdale Borough Council

Kirklees Council

Leeds City Council

Wakefield District Council

Any questions please contact:

HealthyWorkingLife@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

The deadline for submitting Q&As for inclusion in the published response is Friday 22nd May.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Resources:

The West Yorkshire Plan:
[The West Yorkshire Plan](#)

The Work and Health Plan:
[work-and-health-plan.pdf](#)

The Connect to Work Guidance:
[Connect to Work: Grant Guidance for England - GOV.UK](#)

Get Britain Working:
[Get Britain Working White Paper - GOV.UK](#)



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Thank you

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