

<b>Title of Report:</b>  <b>ESF Yr3, Q1 Update</b>	<b>Officer Presenting:</b> Head of Business  <b>Author:</b> Skills Manager
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## 1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

1.1 To provide members with a year 3 quarter 1 report (April 2020 – June 2020) update on five ESF projects, match funded by council to deliver services to those who are unemployed/economically inactive.

## 2 Background

2.1 Members will recall from previous Business & Culture Committees, that five projects were successful in securing match funding towards their ESF project. The overall aim of ESF is to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and increase the skills base of those currently in work and future potential participants in the workforce.

<b>The Women's Centre</b>	<b>£ 15,000.00</b>
<b>Triax - Skills North West</b>	<b>£109,000.00</b>
<b>Conservation Volunteers</b>	<b>£ 30,000.00</b>
<b>USEL</b>	<b>£ 30,000.00</b>
<b>Job Directions</b>	<b>£ 14,593.14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£198,593.14</b>

2.2 A match funding pot of £200,000.00 was agreed for year 1 and 2, the same amount has been agreed for year 3.

2.3 The five projects that are receiving match funding from Council will focus on moving people closer to employment through capacity building, personal development, mentoring and employment initiatives to overcome barriers in order for them to acquire the appropriate skills to access, achieve and sustain employment.

### 3 Key Issues

3.1 Through match funding the Council will support 5 organisations to recruit a total of 1,010 participants in year three. The programme has now completed quarter 1 of year 3.

3.2 Unfortunately, year 3 began during the current pandemic which has had an impact on the Project Promoters to varying degrees. Covid-19 has impacted on recruitment especially on those projects who deal with individuals with multiple barriers and those targeting disabilities. Other Project Promoters have quickly adapted to changing service provision within guidelines and adapting to online delivery which appears not to have impacted on their recruitment targets.

3.3 Collectively the target set for year 3 prior to Covid 19 was 1010 participants, in light of the pandemic the department reduced this by 25%. The recruitment target achieved collectively for this quarter on the reduced recruitment number was 45.8%

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Recruitment target for year</b>	<b>Covid-19 revised target</b>	<b>Actual at end of Yr3 Q1</b>
The Women's Centre	190	145	77 (53.1%)
Triax -Skills North West	720	540	257 (47.6%)
USEL	20	15	8 (53.3%)
Conservation Volunteers	50	37	5 (13.51%)
Job Directions	30	22	1 (4.54%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>348 (45.8%)</b>

3.4 A number of organisations are currently achieving or exceeding their revised yearly recruitment target. In recent discussions with the project promoters it is envisaged that all organisations will meet or exceed their recruitment target, by the end of the final quarter (quarter 4) of year 3.

- 3.5 As an agreement of match funding, project promoters have agreed to deliver a variety of qualifications. This quarter projects have achieved 79 Level 1 qualifications and 144 non accredited/industry led qualifications.

Organisation	Entry L3		Level 1		Non Accredited	
	T	A	T	A	T	A
<b>The Women's Centre</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Triax – Skills North West</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>USEL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b> <small>+(10)</small>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Conservation Volunteers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Job Directions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>T =target A = actual</b>						

- 3.6 The number of qualification to be obtained is set over the period of a year. Due to time constraints required for verification and certification of qualifications, it is anticipated that over the coming year the targets for qualifications should increase for the majority of organisations.
- 3.7 ESF projects are funded to increase individual's abilities, skills and increase their progression to employment. Due to the current economic climate the department has also reduced the target for progression routes by 25% for Quarter 1 Yr 3
- 3.8 Despite this reduction, given the current economic climate it has not been possible for any project promoter to achieve the progression targets.

3.9

Organisation	Gaining Employment			FE/HE/Training		
	Target	Revised	Actual	Target	Revised	Actual
<b>The Women's Centre</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Triax -Skills North West</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>USEL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Conservation Volunteers</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Job Directions</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

## **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications**

- 4.1 An ESF match funding allocation of £200,000 was agreed as part of the rates estimates process for 2020/21.
- 4.2 ESF claims are generated and paid monthly. At present due to Covid -19 the department is currently paying ESF claims on an average basis of a previous claim period as opposed to the actual claim amount, with a follow up on any variations, recouping or repayment of funding. Match funding paid by council will continue to be paid on actual costs up to agreed amounts of funding.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 To note the contents of the report.

## **Background Papers**

**None**