

Stockton Communities Fund

The Communities Fund is about tackling worklessness, improving skills and increasing levels of enterprise in the most disadvantaged areas. In Stockton, 24 neighbourhoods have in excess of 25% of their residents reliant on key government benefits. These areas can be identified using the Communities Fund Address Search tool.

The delivery of the Communities Fund programme within Stockton has been split across five geographical or 'contract' areas, with each area being the responsibility of one of the following organisations.

Billingham 01642 607592	Hardwick 01642 808700	Newtown 01642 607592	Thornaby 01642 753515	Town Centre 01642 673828
Newtown Community Resource Centre	New College Durham	Newtown Community Resource Centre	Five Lamps	Five Lamps

Who Does the Communities Fund Benefit?

Support is only available to residents of Stockton on Tees. At least 80% of the programme will be targeted at individuals living in the 24 worst performing neighbourhoods (LSOAS), with some support to be offered to eligible residents from surrounding areas. Target areas can be identified by using the Communities Fund Address search tool.

Priority Groups:

- Young people aged 12-24;
- People with low skill levels below NVQ Level 2, including key skills such as literacy, numeracy and ICT;
- Homeless;
- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (including refugees);
- Lone parents (in particular teenage parents);
- Drug and alcohol misusers;
- People with long term health conditions, including disabled;
- People with learning and physical disabilities, mental health conditions and people needing sensory support;
- Offenders and Ex-offenders;
- Families and individuals suffering financial exclusion;
- People leaving care, especially young people;
- Unemployed people not claiming benefits but still in disadvantage;
- Family groups suffering generational unemployment;
- Older People aged over 50.
- Carers

People in receipt of the following benefits can access the Communities Fund

- ✓ Incapacity Benefit/Employment and Support Allowance
- ✓ Job Seekers Allowance (If claiming for 6 months +)
- ✓ Income support
- ✓ Carers Allowance
- ✓ Disability Living Allowance



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Summary

The ultimate aim of the Communities Fund is to secure sustainable employment for the most disadvantaged, consequently those recently unemployed, or with fewer barriers, should not be referred.

What Support is Provided?

Communities Fund provision will take account of the client as an individual, and tailor an individual package that addresses all barriers, identified at every stage of the Regional Employability Framework, from 'engagement', through 'action planning', 'employability services', 'job placement' to 'aftercare and retention'

Induction

On joining provision all participants will be assigned their own Personal Advisor who will work with them throughout the process, starting with comprehensive induction which will make clear the aims of the provision and the benefits of participation.

Assessment

A robust initial assessment will highlight barriers to employment and individual learning/training/soft skill needs. All clients will be offered a Basic Skills Assessment to establish any further basic skills needs to assist in forming the Action Plan.

Action Plan

All clients will receive an Individual Action Plan (IAP) to highlight the support needed to successfully enter the labour market. Personal Advisors will work with the client to ensure this is reviewed at regular intervals and all of the necessary support is in place. All eligible clients will be provided with an up to date CV.

Soft Skills Support

Soft Skill and Barriers identified during the Initial Assessment may include caring responsibilities, childcare, or chaotic lifestyle. Support is provided to all eligible clients and will vary dependent upon the need identified, but can include: -

- Supervision, leadership, support, coaching, feedback and guidance;
- Identification of individual support/training needs;
- Provision of resources to undertake provision and work placements;
- Confidence / Motivation / Assertiveness/ Interview Skills

Employability/Vocational Training

A wide range of employability/vocational training is provided to help eligible clients acquire and/or update work-related skills to enable them to get a job, and individual training needs are identified during the assessment stage. Training varies from basic skills and NVQ's to in work training, Train to Gain and specialist qualification such as asbestos removal, and can be provided by the host organisation, or by a partner organisation, arranged by the Personal Adviser.

Mentoring/Aftercare Support

Mentoring and support is provided to all clients throughout the process to assist them in overcoming the barriers to work, improve their employability and assist them in their transition into work. Aftercare support will maximise the opportunity of retaining employment by continuing to address any barriers.

Discretionary Support

Financial support may be available for eligible clients to help remove barriers to either moving into employment or remaining in employment. This can be considered when other discretionary funding cannot be accessed by the participant. It can also be used to 'package' support around an individual in partnership with other providers.

Summary

The Communities Fund will support any individual who wishes to aspire to fulfill their potential, in particular, those individuals who are regarded as being from one or more disadvantaged groups from the disadvantaged areas.

