

# Staffordshire Technical Assistance Project and Programme Update

## £37 Million investment into Employment & Skills

### Programmes being delivered in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire:

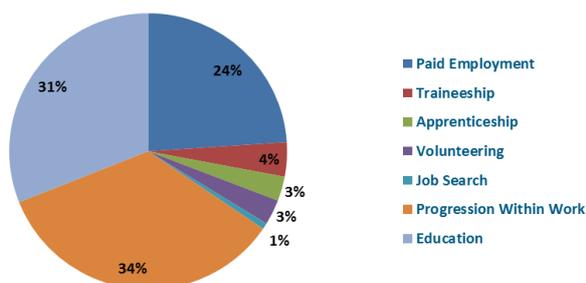
- Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people
- Sustainable integration of young people
- Active inclusion
- Enhancing equal access to life long learning
- Improving the labour market relevance of education and training

Businesses and residents of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire have taken advantage of and benefited from the £37 million investment into employment and skills. Total participants by March 2019 had reached 19,606, of whom 9,015 had progressed into education, further training, apprenticeships or employment. The European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme is part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme for England in 2014-2020.

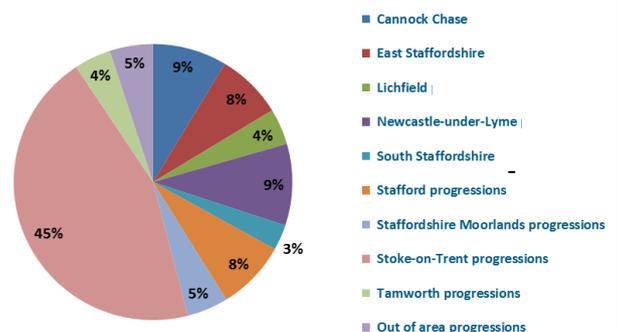
The investment is key to helping the LEP realise its ambition of securing a well-qualified and adaptable workforce with the skills sets appropriate to the needs of existing business sectors, as well as those where there are aspirations for economic growth.

Three Opt-In Partners are providing the match funding for the programme. The 3 opt-in partners are; Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and The National Lottery Building Better Opportunities Fund (BBO).

**Progressions**



**Progressions By District**





## **New contracts have begun delivery from April 2019 to July 2021 with a combined contract value of £15 million**

### **The new programmes are:**

#### **1.1 Support for the unemployed**

The service delivers bespoke personalised support and training for the unemployed and the economically inactive, who are seeking to return to the labour market but are facing skills related barriers. The programme provides participants with support so they may compete in the labour market via a progression route of Paid Employment, Education, Apprenticeship or Traineeship.

#### **1.2 Support for individuals who are NEET or risk of being NEET**

The programme will support and encourage young people realise their potential and progress in learning and in the workplace. The programme will equip young people with personal/transferable skills, work experience and vocational skills.

#### **1.4 Community grants**

Community Grants will develop the capacity of local community organisations and help them meet local needs. Grants are available up to the value of £20,000 for voluntary or community group, registered charity, Social Enterprise, not for profit company or company limited by guarantee. The grants will support those with multiple and complex barriers. The grants will provide intensive support to help upskill individuals and move them towards and into work.

#### **2.1 Supply of skills support for the workforce**

The programme will provide individuals with the opportunity to develop the skills that will enable them to progress within work. It will deliver skills support for the workforce and those at risk of redundancy or recently redundant. It provides support to employers to employ and develop individuals to fill skills gaps and shortages.

## **New Open Calls**

**Higher-level skills and Apprenticeships are a priority for SSLEP.**

**During business engagement activities several labour market and skills issues were raised, which will be included in themes within these calls:**

### **Call One**

- Parental knowledge and engagement in Careers Advice.
- Careers resources and training for education provider staff.
- Young peoples' skills in how to secure and retain employment.
- Understanding of career progression pathways.

### **Call Two**

- Graduate retention opportunities and career progression.

### **Call Three**

- SME focused information on Apprenticeships and wider learning offer.