# European Update for Cheshire and Warrington Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise Sector 21st December 2020

## Highlights

ESF calls announced.

## ESF calls

Two ESF calls for Cheshire and Warrington were announced on 17th December. Deadlines are 11th March. Projects have to be completed and money spent by the end of December 2023 at the latest.

Ref For Total ESF ESF split Minimum bid

OC03S20P1797 Unemployed £2m £1m for 1.1, £1m for 1.2 £500k

OC03S20P1796 Skills £2m £1.5m for 2.1, £0.5m for 2.2 £500k

### [www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds](http://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds)

## ESF call - support for the unemployed

This call is under Priority 1. It covers 1.1 - long term unemployed, those facing particular disadvantage, the economically inactive, those with basic skill needs, and women - to reduce the gender employment gap. It also covers 1.2 - young people, including traineeships/apprenticeships, marginalised 15-18 year olds, basic skill needs of NEET young people, additional work experience, and lone parents (including childcare support).

The call explains local priorities, and is specifically to address the impact of Covid19 - it provides a range of figures showing that unemployment has doubled across almost all age ranges, gender, and geographical areas (claimant counts between January and October 2020). In most cases it has more than doubled. In addition, the call refers to the numbers of residents furloughed, and estimates the number of those facing unemployment, as well as the numbers of self-employed. The funding is thus looking to support recently unemployed people, as well as targeted support for those over 50. For young people, there is a focus on NEET young people, as well as school leavers, unemployed, and accessing traineeships/apprenticeships.

The intention is to award one, or possibly two large contracts under this call, so consortia or other partnership arrangements are welcomed.

Applicants should demonstrate how they link with and complement other work being done in our area.

## ESF call - skills for growth

This call is under Priority 2. It covers 2.1 - lifelong learning (most of the funding) - addressing the basic skill needs of employed people, particularly in smaller enterprises, increasing the skill levels of individuals to encourage their progression in work, increasing people with technical and job specific skills, and increasing the skill levels of women in employment to encourage progression and help address the gender employment and wage gap.

And also 2.2 - improving labour market relevance of education/training systems, in particular through engagement with small and medium sized enterprises, including micro-businesses.

Local priorities consider the 130,000 furloughed, including the number of those that might lose their jobs as furlough winds down, as well as the 40,000 currently able to claim under the self-employment scheme. It also considers the need for digital skills, and considers future opportunities for jobs growth.

Applicants should demonstrate good linkages with existing work in the area.

Further details are available for download in the Call Specifications.

### [www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds](http://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds)

Also see information from the LEP.

### www.871candwep.co.uk/investment-programmes

### [www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2020/12/European-Social-Fund-update-December-2020.pdf](http://www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2020/12/European-Social-Fund-update-December-2020.pdf)

## Network for Europe

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