



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE: KEY FACTS

2007 to 2013 Programme

As a former Objective One area, South Yorkshire will receive transitional 'phasing in' funding until 2010.

Funding

£139 million ESF

£139 million national match funding

£278 million in total

Targets

Total number of people who will be helped to improve their skills and job prospects = 106,000

Number of people not in work who will be helped in to jobs by the end of their ESF course = 12,000

Number of the most disadvantaged people who will make positive progress towards jobs = 9,000

Number of disadvantaged young people who will be re-engaged in learning or a job = 5,000

Number of people who will gain (full) qualifications (including basic skills qualifications) = 20,000

Regional priorities

Priority 1 – Extending employment opportunities

ESF Priority 1 in South Yorkshire will target those individuals who are disadvantaged or excluded from the labour market. The ESF programme will concentrate on making these individuals 'job-ready' and supporting them in accessing employment opportunities by addressing basic skills and ESOL needs, assisting with job search and improving access to childcare.

Activities include:

- engaging communities and Community Referral Points;
- addressing barriers to work;
- basic skills and ESOL needs;
- flexible return to work programmes;
- job brokerage, working with employers to link clients with job opportunities; and

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- measures to sustain employment and encourage individual progression.

Target groups are:

- people receiving incapacity benefit;
- lone parents;
- BME communities;
- partners of claimants; and
- people living in disadvantaged areas.

The 14-19 part of Priority 1 will target support for young people preparing for working life, in particular, NEETs and those at risk of becoming NEETs. Specific actions will include the development of appropriate vocational options, enhancing the support and guidance which these young people receive, and developing closer links with employers.

Priority 2 – Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce

The South Yorkshire ESF Programme will support activities that address skills gaps from foundation level to Level 3 and above. A particular priority for South Yorkshire will be to complete activities from the Objective 1 programme that are addressing the training needs of the sub-region's employers. There is a specific need to engage small companies in training initiatives as key contributors to the South Yorkshire economy.

Take up of basic skills training is a key priority. At the other end of the scale qualifications may be supported at Level 4 and above, where justified, orientated to the skills needs of South Yorkshire businesses

ESF Priority 2 will use new specialised qualifications, orientated to employer needs, developing capacity to enable delivery. Other themes will include

- access to Higher Education;
- the use of digital technologies for workforce development;
- job guarantee programmes in high growth industries; and
- literacy for ESOL workers, including the needs of the highly skilled; and flexibility to respond where needed when redundancies occur in declining industries.

Co-financing Organisations

Department for Work and Pensions

Learning and Skills Council.

2000 to 2006 Objective 1 Programme (South Yorkshire)

Achievements (to date)

- 383,667 training interventions since 2000:

People in employment trained	131,010
Unemployed/inactive trained	79,031
Young people trained (at school)	173,626
- The South Yorkshire programme targeted ESF spend at school children in the 14-16 age groups. ESF was used alongside the European Regional Development Fund to support the South Yorkshire-wide e-learning initiative that has revolutionised the delivery of curriculum in every secondary school in the sub-region. ESF investment also increased the availability of vocationally targeted curriculum choices, tackled the low levels of basic skills for employment and addressed significant issues of disengagement from learning amongst South Yorkshire school children.
- 224,940 individuals working towards a qualification, over double the target of 86,811
- 72,012 have gained a qualification - over achieving the programme target of 50,382
- 15,326 have secured employment

Case study: Construction JOBMATCH Sheffield

A construction training programme part-financed by ESF has proved to be a real success in tackling Sheffield's serious shortage of skilled labour and helping communities back to work.

Construction JOBMATCH Sheffield has recruited over 250 people into full time employment within the industry, who have been chosen from groups which traditionally find it difficult to get jobs in construction - including black and ethnic minorities, women and the long-term unemployed. Trainees are employed from day one and follow a two year employment support programme working towards a craft NVQ Level 2, The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card accreditation and basic skills. Construction JOBMATCH Sheffield is now working closely with their construction partners to further develop this highly successful initiative.

Nathaniel Gono, who is originally from Liberia, found it very difficult to gain employment in the UK. Construction JOBMATCH helped Nathaniel to find construction with the Mears Group and he is training to become a qualified bricklayer. As part of the Construction JOBMATCH programme Nathaniel has benefited from the English language support on offer. He says: 'I am learning something new every day.'