



Report to:	Employment and Skills Committee
Date:	14 March 2024
Subject:	Decisions – WorkWell
Director:	Felix Kumi-Ampofo, Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture
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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider and retrospectively acknowledge the West Yorkshire application for the “Work Well” programme, and to endorse the acceptance of funding should the application be successful, to enable timely mobilisation and delivery.

2. Information

West Yorkshire partnership arrangements

- 2.1 A West Yorkshire Work and Health Partnership has been established since September 2023, bringing together partners from Local Authorities (Public Health and Employment and Skills), West Yorkshire Combined Authority, West Yorkshire ICB, DWP and more. This Partnership will be vital in developing Work and Health programmes.

WorkWell

- 2.2 WorkWell was announced in the Spring 2023 Budget to address the increasing number of people out of work. Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health and Social Care, the service aims to support around 60,000 long-

term sick or disabled people to start, stay, and succeed in work through integrated work and health support.

- 2.3 A prospectus and grant application guidance published on 30 November invited applications from [Integrated Care Systems](#) in England to design and deliver WorkWell, as one of approximately 15 “Vanguards” running a pilot service. Successful applicants will be identified no later than April 2024 and delivery is expected to run from October 2024 to March 2026.
- 2.4 The deadline for WorkWell EOI applications closed on 22nd January 2024 and the WY ICB submitted an application covering the entire West Yorkshire footprint, supported by WYCA and all five Local Authorities. The Chair of the Employment and Skills Committee, approved the application prior to submission.
- 2.5 The Work Well Grant application is available in confidential appendix 1.

Universal Support

- 2.6 Universal support was also announced as part of a package at the Spring Budget, to help the disabled, people with health conditions and those with additional barriers to employment, into sustained work. Grant funding will be allocated to MCAs in devolved areas. There is good potential for alignment between WorkWell and Universal Support. The Committee will receive more information as it comes available.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The Work Well programme will support inclusive growth by preventing individuals falling out of work due to ill health, or return quickly to work through management of their health. The programme will contribute to tackling health inequalities and improving life expectancy/health outcomes for the most disadvantaged including individuals who live in the most deprived WY neighbourhoods.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Levels of health inequality in Yorkshire are amongst the UK’s highest and healthy life expectancy in WY is significantly below the national average. Greater access to work and health-related provision (through WorkWell services/gateway) is key to helping communities tackle deprivation and poor health. EDI indicators will be set and monitored throughout Work Well delivery.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The proposed delivery model would involve grant-funding via the ICB to West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and further to Local Authorities, to deliver the programme.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The appropriate legal agreements will be put in place between the ICB and WYCA, and WYCA and Local Authorities.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There would be a requirement for the Combined Authority to deploy staff to develop and manage the Work Well programme, this would be covered through management costs.

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Committee endorses the application from West Yorkshire for the “WorkWell” programme, and supports the acceptance of funding, should the application be successful.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Confidential Work Well summary and Grant Application.