CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by **UK Government**

Connect to Work (CtW)

Connect to Work is a supported employment programme designed to help people with a wide range of health needs, disabilities, and other barriers to work to move into, and remain in, meaningful employment.

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

Connect to Work – Overview

Connect to Work programme will be running for 4 years (financial years) across the LLR region from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2030 (around £17m).

Connect to Work is a supported employment model, known as "place then train".

- Individuals are supported to **find paid work quickly**, rather than after extended job preparation activities.
- Employment specialists then **continue to support** the individual and their employer to make the work placement successful.
- Supported employment is the best evidenced approach to enabling people who **face additional barriers to enter paid work**.
- Supports both '**Out of Work and 'In Work'** participant

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by **UK Government**

Connect to Work – Delivery Models

The programme is delivering two variations of the supported employment model:

- **Individual Placement and Support (IPS):** An evidence-based model of supported employment that helps people with mental health conditions and other complex needs find and retain paid, competitive jobs. It is widely used in the UK, particularly within the NHS and local authority drug and alcohol treatment services.

- **Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)**: A UK-developed framework that sets out the principles, standards, and practices to deliver high-quality supported employment for people with disabilities, health conditions, or other barriers to work.

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by **UK Government**

Connect to Work – Eligibility

Want to find work

Over 18

Live in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland

Have the right live and work in the UK

Have a Learning Disability or Autism

From April 2026 the full Connect to Work programme launches across LLR.

The programme can support more people with different needs and experiences, including people from the following groups:

- A person with a disability or health condition.
- A carer, an ex-carer., a homeless person.
- A former member of His Majesty's (HM) Armed Forces (AF), a member of HM AF reserves, or a partner of current or former Armed Forces personnel.
- A person for whom a drug or alcohol dependency, including a history of dependency, presents a significant barrier to employment.
- An offender (someone who is serving a community service) or ex-offender (someone who has completed a custodial or community sentence).
- Care experienced young person or a care leaver
- A refugee, a resettled Afghan, a person on the Ukrainian scheme.
- A victim/survivor of domestic abuse.
- Young people identified as being involved or at risk of being involved in serious violence.
- A victim of modern slavery.

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

Different emphasis depending on the participant (Indicative)

IPS

Economically Inactive with long-term health condition or disability: integration with health services important (IPS)

Refugee / AS may require less intense vocational profiling (IPS)

Ex Armed Forces may require less in work support provided job match is good (IPS)

SEQF

At risk young person may be engaged through a youth service or a youth hub (SEQF)

More intense vocational profiling may be needed for people who have experienced domestic violence (SEQF)

Job and employer match may require more intense work for offenders or ex-offenders (SEQF)

Care leavers may require more intense on the job support (SEQF)

Neurodivergent individuals and those with learning disabilities may require more structured support to develop the skills needed for the role, as well as assistance with travel training (SEQF)

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

The Participant Journey

Connect to Work (www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk/connect-to-work)

Pre-Screening

- Individual submits an enquiry form
- Programme team carries out initial checks
- Allocation made to the relevant SEQF team across LLR

1. EOI & Initial Meeting

- Programme eligibility confirmed
- Initial meeting completed
- EOI form completed
- Vocational Profiling appointment arranged

2. Vocational Profiling

- Strengths and support needs explored
- Aspirations discussed
- Personalised support plan created

3. Job Matching

- Suitable roles identified
- Job analysis completed
- Matched to skills and preferences

4. Employer Engagement

- Employers contacted
- Workplace adjustments agreed
- Interview preparation provided

5. Job Support

- Job coaching in the workplace
- Adjustments implemented
- Ongoing monitoring and review

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by **UK Government**

Key Messages

Programme Fully Live

Connect to Work fully live **April 2026**

Pre-Launch Restrictions

No external marketing or public promotion before Mar 2026

Current Delivery Model

Only **SEQF** is active during the pre-launch period

Commenced Jan 26

Target Cohort (Pre-Launch)

SEQF support is **for individuals with Learning Disabilities and Autism only**

Referral Pathway

Online Enquiry MS Form

Individual and Employers

Key Contact

Programme Team **ConnecttoWork@leicester.gov.uk**

Current Targets

- Targets based on anticipated starts registered by 31 March 2026
- Enquiries have been received, but sign off for the programme was not able to be done until contract finally signed in December 2025
- Teams assessing enquiries to confirm eligibility to join the programme
- Leicestershire CC team started 1st week of February
- Starts expected to start ramping up but may not hit the 78 target in first few months due to timing of contract sign off.
- To count as starts Individuals need to have had:
  - Initial Meeting and Completed EOI
  - Checks done by Accountable Body team and DWP
  - Vocational profile meeting, plan and actions agreed including sign up to programme

Activities undertaken

Lots of forms created for each stage of client journey

Marketing material being created

Draft SLA created for Rutland/County

Procurement out to tender, deadline 12th Feb

Systems to record client info all in place, shared teams, spreadsheets

DWP reporting system being recorded/updated

Employer engagement started

Next Steps

- Finalise agreements
- Finalise IPS procurement and put organisations into contract
- Complete year end reporting, finance, outputs
- Start new marketing, social media from end of April 26 onwards
- Finalise and implement CRM system with training
- Undertake any additional training
- Prep for Fidelity assurance review
- Prep for Finance audit review