

## Contents

Click the links below to be taken to the page

- 01 Welcome
- 01 Work Programme Preferred Suppliers
- 02 IT Links
- 02 50+ Labour Market Spotlight
- 03 ESF News

Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the European Social Fund.



## Welcome to the Christmas e-newsletter

Welcome to the Christmas edition of **50+ Matters** with some 'good news' items, coverage of TAEN's contribution at the ESF Mid-programme Conference and this month's Labour Market Spotlight. The combined December/January **50+ Matters** e-newsletter will be in your email box in the New Year.

We welcome your views and comments about the content of this e-newsletter and any suggestions you have for items and features you would like to see included in future.

## Work Programme Preferred Suppliers

The Department for Work and Pensions has released an updated prospectus giving more details of the contracting and funding arrangements that will apply for the new Work Programme <sup>[1]</sup>.

The DWP also named the preferred suppliers appointed to the ERSS (Employment Related Support Services) framework for the Work Programme<sup>[2]</sup>, which is intended to replace all current back to work schemes. Forty Work Programme Contracts will be 'let' across 18 different geographic (package) areas. Organisations will be invited to tender for Work Programme contracts to deliver jobs schemes from next summer, the DWP said. Each of these individual contracts is expected to be worth £10-50 million per year.

Under the funding arrangements that will apply, providers will receive an "attachment fee" for each customer start over the first three years of their Work Programme contract, but the size of this fee will reduce in value each year.

There will also be a fixed "job outcome fee", which appears to become payable to the provider on the first day of employment.

In addition, there will also be a fixed "sustainment fee", linked to customers staying in work. The sustainment fee is expected to account for a "significant amount" of the overall contract value.

Tenders to deliver the Work Programme must be lodged in December. Details of those selected for the Work Programme will be published following the conclusion of the tendering exercise in spring 2011.

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/work-program-prospectus-v2.pdf>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/erss-preferred-suppliers.pdf>

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## Contents

Click the links below to be taken to the page

01 Welcome

01 Work Programme Preferred Suppliers

02 IT Links

02 50+ Labour Market Spotlight

03 ESF News

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## IT Links

We're feeling in a festive mood at 50+ Matters and wanted to share tales of Silver Surfers that filled us with cheer... and that you could use to inspire your 50+ clients to step up to IT:

Barbara Moore, 77 and 82-year-old Laurence Brocklesby, who fell in love after meeting on Facebook: Barbara signed up to the site to find new friends in her area and was soon drawn to Laurence's profile. She broke the ice by asking him for some gardening tips and after a three-month online courtship, they plucked up the courage to meet in real life, and married shortly afterwards. "It's so nice to meet someone at our age," said Mrs Moore. "We both thought we'd spend the rest of our lives alone."

And Jessie Beattie, 94 (winner of NIACE's Regional Senior Learner of the Year award). Jessie's retirement has been spent learning, but it was her decision to become computer

literate in her late 80s that changed her life. Jessie bought a laptop and taught herself how to use Microsoft Word, send emails and talk on Skype and Windows Messenger so she could keep in touch with friends and family. She also learned how to use the computer for digital photography and Excel spreadsheets for her Christmas card list.

"[Learning] has made a huge difference to my life... Information technology in particular has prevented me from feeling lonely and isolated as so many other old people find."

There will be plenty of opportunities in NIACE's Adult Learners' Week 2011 (14-20 May 2011): [www.alw.org.uk/events](http://www.alw.org.uk/events).

## Second 50+ Works Bulletin Out

Following the request of users, we have started to issue alerts with what's new on 50+ Works, a web-based guide and toolkit created for providers to help them deliver better results with older customers.

If you haven't been to 50+ Works yet, the bulletin is a great way to get a flavour of the tool.

Access the second 50+ Works bulletin [here](#).



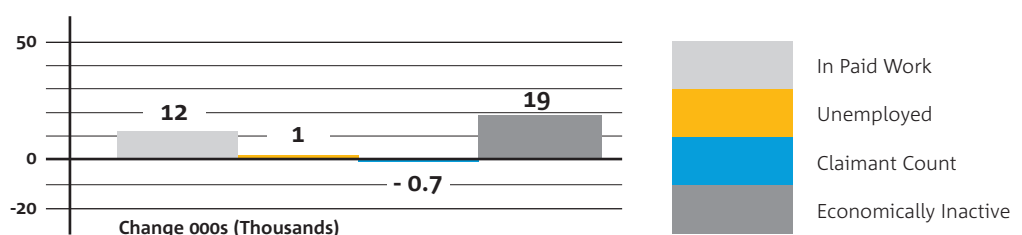
## 50+ Labour Market Spotlight

A monthly look at the 50–64 employment figures.

### Latest 50-64 Employment Figures

August – October 2010

Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Market Statistics, December 2010



# 02

## Contents

Click the links below to be taken to the page

- 01 Welcome
- 01 Work Programme Preferred Suppliers
- 02 IT Links
- 02 50+ Labour Market Spotlight
- 03 ESF News

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## ESF News

TAEN is now on  Follow us at [www.twitter.com/TAEN\\_UK](http://www.twitter.com/TAEN_UK)

### ESF Mid-Programme Conference – Older Workers Workshop

Older Workers workshop was one of the 10 breakout sessions offered to participants at the ESF Mid-programme conference in Birmingham Aston Villa on 17 November.

Chairing the session, Ian Chapman of European Social Fund Division remarked that this ESF programme has seen a massive shift to the older worker client group, who, for the first time, are recognised as a target group with specific needs. The demographic change means that we will need to engage more with older workers, particularly those who are inactive. Interestingly, the ESF customer survey shows that older participants tend to be less satisfied with the provision on offer, compared with those in the younger client group.

Keith Frost of TAEN – The Age and Employment Network, held a session in which he introduced activities in TAEN's national Technical Assistance that aim to support providers in delivering productive outcomes with 50+ participants. He listed a few simple measures that every provider can consider introducing: use good marketing that older people will perceive as 'inclusive', eg have some members of staff from the clients' peer group and allocate more time for initial meeting interviews so as to accommodate longer employment and life story of people who are older - something that helps greatly in building rapport.

As an example of good practice towards improving outcomes for older people, Keith Frost also briefly presented 50+ Works, a good practice guide and toolkit for



providers supporting older jobseekers. Accessible free on [www.50plusworks.com](http://www.50plusworks.com) the website brings guidance, information and links to further support a wide range of staff from provider organisations. The website is being continually enhanced and updated; those wishing to receive a bulletin with recent content updates can email [info@taen.org.uk](mailto:info@taen.org.uk). Although TAEN led on the development of the website, the content relies heavily on provider contributions and all providers are invited to share their good practice (please contact the project team on [info@taen.org.uk](mailto:info@taen.org.uk)).

Sue Newton-Brown of York College was invited to present one of the few 50+ specific projects in the current ESF Programme, run under the ITM (Innovation, Transnational and Mainstreaming) strand. The aim of the WorkAge Extending Lives project in the Yorkshire and Humber region is to promote the concept of age management: prolonging the working lives of older workers and supporting employers.

An important element of the project is the focus on transferable skills of older individuals. While there is general agreement that not creating 'silos' is the right approach, and one that supports the notion of equality and uniqueness of every individual regardless of age, where career change is concerned and identifying transferable skills it is probably appropriate to offer sessions for older workers specifically.

# 03



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