

Somerset Connect to Work *Stakeholder Workshop*

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19 February 2025



Somerset
Council



*What are your
expectations
this morning?*

Get Britain Working White Paper (#1)

November 2024 - [Get Britain Working White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

...build a healthier, wealthier nation - driving up employment and opportunity, skills and productivity - while driving down the benefits bill...

- 2.8m people nationally locked out of work primarily due to disability and long-term sickness
- Aiming to achieve a national 80% employment rate longer term

Six key issues to address:

1. Too many people excluded from labour market – especially those with health conditions, caring responsibilities or lower skills
2. Too many young people leave school without essential skills or access to further learning or support to find work
3. Too many people stuck in insecure, poor quality/low pay work affecting their health and wellbeing
4. Too many women carers experience challenges to stay, and progress, in work
5. Employers can not recruit due to labour and skills shortages
6. Significant disparity in labour market outcomes between different places and for different groups of people

Get Britain Working White Paper (#2)

November 2024 - [Get Britain Working White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

Radical reform to target and tackle root causes of economic inactivity including:

- Fixing NHS waiting lists
- Transformation of job centres
- Joining up of local work, health and skills activity
- Delivering a Youth Guarantee
- Supporting employers to employ people with health conditions and keep them in work

Fundamental reforms will transform the system to deliver better:

- Access to training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work for young people
- Help for people to get a job, upskill and get on in their career
- Support for employers to recruit, retain and develop staff
- *Support for those outside the workforce and to help stay in work if they have a health condition*

The Wider Context

What Somerset is not part of (currently) ...

Employment support trailblazers - White Paper sets out areas that will receive early funding – Somerset does not qualify

WorkWell – delivery in 12 pilot areas – Somerset is not one, but we are doing preliminary work to align work and health activity

National Jobs and Careers Service – combined JCP and NCS – Somerset unlikely to be first adopters

What we will be taking forward ...

Connect to Work – we will deliver intensive supported employment to those who need it

Employment Support – we will work with partners to continue wider support to those that don't qualify for C2W

Get Britain Working Plan – we will develop a plan for Somerset setting out our response to the White Paper

Connect to Work is only one part of the puzzle....



Connect to Work

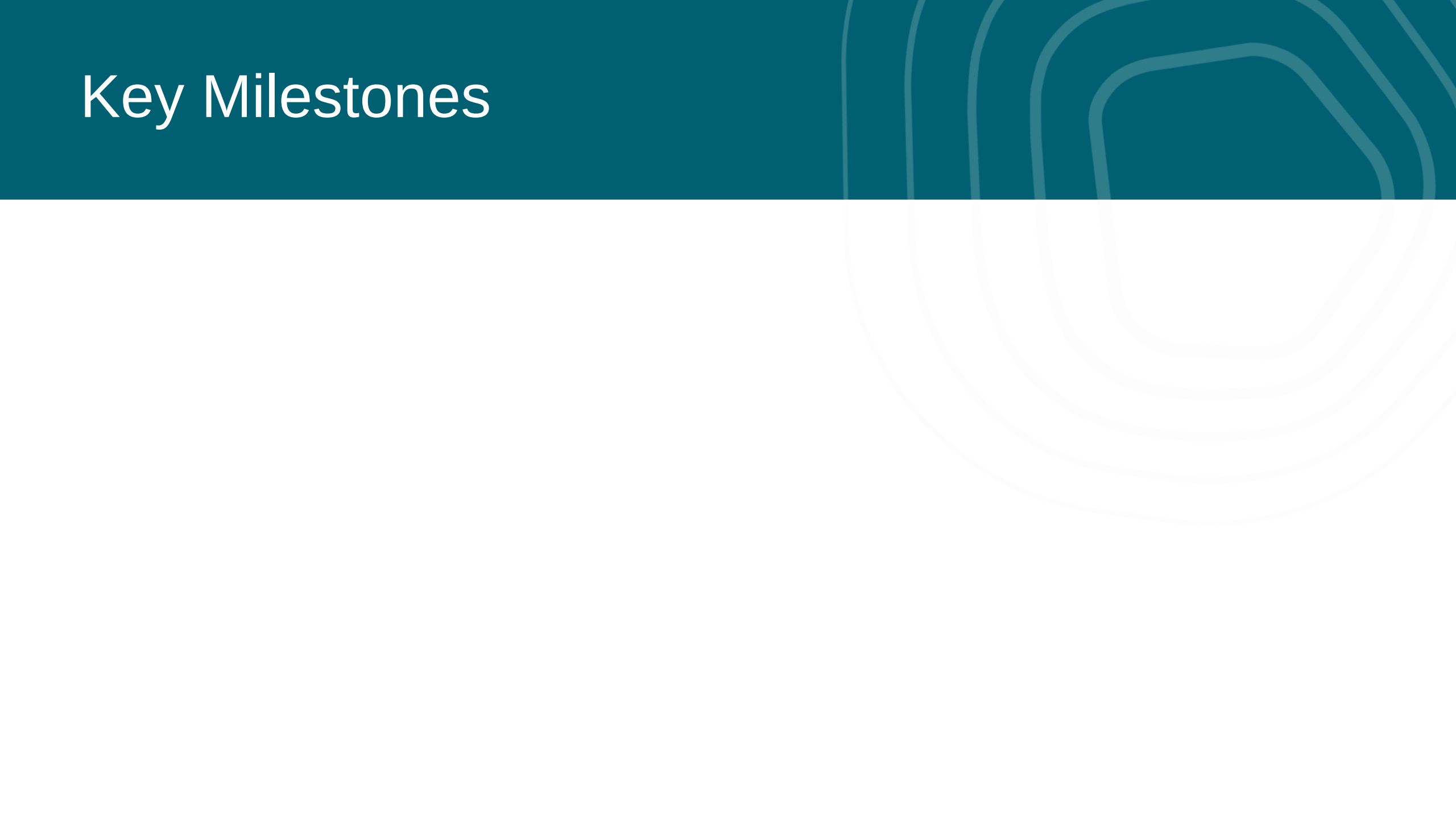
[Connect to Work - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

- First programme under the Get Britain Working Strategy
- Voluntary, high fidelity supported employment delivered via IPS or SEQF models
- To support those outside of the workforce and facing complex barriers move into, and stay in, work
- 5 year programme (2025-2030) subject to annual spending reviews

In Somerset:

- We will support 700 eligible adults per annum (at peak)
 - 525 through IPS
 - 175 through SEQF
- ... subject to evidence of need

Key Milestones





The Data:
Presentation from the HDRC

Questions

1. *What are the strengths across existing employment support activity?*
2. *What are the weaknesses? What could be done differently? What are the barriers?*
3. *What are the opportunities that we should consider as part of the C2W planning and longer term GBW Plans?*
4. *What are the threats? How could we mitigate any risks?*
5. *What information is missing from the data? What is it not telling us that you are aware of?*

We will not feedback across the group but will take the notes away; please be specific in your comments so we interpret them correctly.

Next Steps

January/February	Stakeholder engagement and evidence base
April	Finalisation of Delivery Plan for submission to DWP
Through the summer	Procurement
Autumn	Mobilisation across delivery partners and delivery commences



Thank-you

if you have any further thoughts please email:

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