



Skills Funding
Agency



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Evaluation of 2007-10 Co-financing Plans

April 2013

Of interest to providers with European Social Fund contracts

Note: This report was presented to the European Social Fund Division in June 2011. All information in this document was correct in November 2010.

Background and introduction

- 1 This paper is the consolidated evaluation of the LSC and subsequently Skills Funding Agency's (Agency's) Co-financing Plans for the European Social Fund Convergence, Competitiveness and Employment Programme 2007-2010, England and Gibraltar.

Purpose

- 2 The purpose of this report is to cover all the Agency's regional co-financing plans in one single concise document. Priorities 1 and 4 and Priorities 2 and 5 are grouped together for national performance. However, Priorities 4 and 5 and the phasing-in areas keep their identity in the regional reporting of each output and result.
- 3 The data and information presented in this report uses the management information derived from participants' Individualised Learner Records (ILRs) submitted by providers and subsequently submitted to European Social Fund Division as the management information for the November 2010 claims.
- 4 This report uses actual data for participants on both ESF and match- funded provision. This management information is compared to Co-Financing Plan target to show at both national and regional level the contribution the Co-Financing Plans have made to the Operational Programme and the regional ESF frameworks through analysis of how outputs and results have met targets.
- 5 This report provides a concise analysis of output and results from the November 2010 claim with some further national statistics for comparative purposes. Additional information has been provided by using the results of the European Social Fund Cohort Study Wave 1 and analysis of
- 6 All information presented is from the Skills Funding Agency Claims submission for November 2010 unless otherwise sourced.
- 7 This report focuses on the actual outputs and results of the Agency nationally through aggregating the Co-Financing Plans and through a regional breakdown. The report does not revisit any background information already contained in the Operational Programme.
- 8 This report does not analyse the cross-cutting themes. A further version or separate evaluation will examine the cross-cutting themes as it will be useful to incorporate the findings of the DWP evaluations into this analysis.

Key points

- 9 Priority 1 and 4

- a Overall participation in Priorities 1 and 4 has exceeded the CFO Plan targets.
- b Participation targets have been exceeded for those unemployed and the 14-19 NEET category.
- c The result achieved for the Economically Inactive is below the target.
- d The result achieved for 14-19 NEET into EET is over three times the target.
- e The result achieved for people In Work on Leaving is 71 per cent of the target.
- f The ratio of the number of ESF participants to Match participants is on average 2:1.
- g In term of the target groups:-
 - The percentage of participants with a disability and/or learning difficulty is just 1 per cent short of the target.
 - The percentage of participants aged 50+ is just three per cent short of the target.
 - The percentage of participants from an ethnic minority is 5 per cent short of the target.
 - The percentage of participants who are female is 37 per cent when the target is 50 per cent. The Agency has commissioned research to look into this. This was due to be completed at the end of June 2011 and some draft findings have been included in this paper.

10 Priority 2 and 5

- a Total participation has exceeded the Co-Financing Plan targets by 50 per cent.
- b The targets for participants with basic skills needs and for those without Level 2 qualifications are just short of the target.
- c The number of participants without a Level 3 qualification has far exceeded the target.
- d The number of participants who gained basic skills is under half off the target.
- e Both the number of participants who gained level 2 and the number of participants who gained Level 3 are far higher than the target.
- f In terms of the target groups:
 - People with a disability or learning difficulty; half the percentage target has been achieved.
 - Participants aged 50+ is just two per cent short of the target.
 - The percentage of people from an Ethnic Minority has exceeded the target.
 - The percentage of female participants is four per cent short of the target.

Key Analysis of Outputs and Results

- 11 The level of participation in the programme has been very positive with overall CFO Plan targets being exceeded for each region for each priority. The only exceptions are the Priority 1 participation in the East Midlands

region and London. Neither region is a concern as there is further participation to be recorded for 2007-10 activity, not yet recorded which will be drawn into the management information in the May 2011 claim.

- 12 In Priority 1 the numbers of economically inactive participants has been below target. However, those under 19 and economically inactive are recorded in the 14-19 NEET group and the overall participation of the “workless” cohort is very high. Going forward for the 2011-13 part of the programme the Agency will no longer support the Economically Inactive in line with Government policy.
- 13 Also participants ‘in work on leaving’ have not met the target. Since the beginning of the programme there has been the worldwide economic downturn which in England has led to an increase in unemployment levels. In terms of Agency ESF delivery this will be a factor but is difficult to quantify. What can be quantified and which is of interest is the number of participants leaving ESF provision but continuing in education or training. Figure 14 shows the significant numbers in education or training across each region. There are two deductions that can be made from this information :
 1. Participants recruited onto ESF provision are some distance from the labour market; ESF training brings participants into the formal education and training regime.
 2. Participants due to leave the ESF intervention may view further education and training as a more viable route to employment than an immediate job search.
- 14 In Priorities 1 and 4 the target groups of people with a disability or learning difficulty and those Aged 50+ have met or nearly met the target. The results for people from an ethnic minority are 5 per cent short of the target. Figure 27 shows the ratio of the CFO Plan Target to the percentage of people from an ethnic minority in the general population. Regions where the target has not been met are where the target is approximately double the percentage of general population so in those regions the target is more challenging than those where the ratio ranges between 1 ½ and twice the proportion. The proportion of female participation is below target and has led the Skills Funding Agency to commission research into how this cohort may be better served by ESF provision. This is covered in further detail later in this report.
- 15 In Priorities 2 and 5 all eligible skill levels are addressed for people with basic skills needs and the results for those without a Level 2 as a prior qualification are only just short of the target.
- 16 The qualifications gained for Levels 2 and 3 far exceed the target in the Co-Financing Plans. The achievement for Basic Skills is well below the target and would at first appear to be a concern. However, further analysis of what participants who started with no previous qualification actually achieved shows that 21 per cent gained basic skills, but 64 per cent gained a Level 2. This is positive news as it shows that participants are achieving a higher level qualification.
- 17 In terms of the target groups, in Priorities 2 and 5 these have been met or nearly met except for people with a disability or learning difficulty. Anecdotal

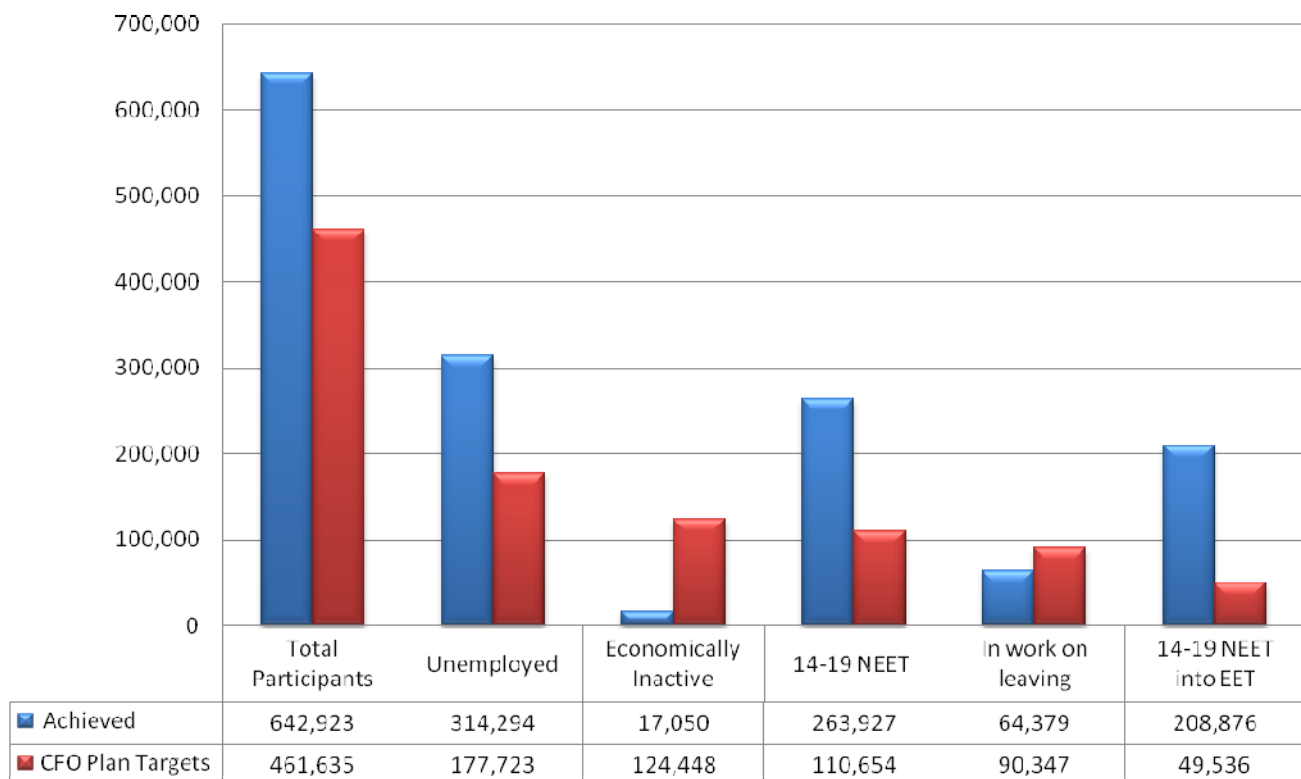
evidence from Agency regional leads has suggested some unwillingness for employed participants to disclose a disability to providers of in work training. There is no direct evidence for this. It is interesting to compare the type of disability in Priorities 2 and 5 (Figure 61) with the same chart for Priorities 1 and 4 (Figure 21). Each chart shows a breakdown of the type of disability, where one has been declared. For Priority 1 and 4, (the unemployed cohort), 24 per cent provide no further detail. For Priority 2 and 5, (the employed cohort), this increases to 61 per cent. This would suggest some validity to the anecdotal evidence.

Programme Outputs and Results

Priority 1&4 Outputs

Overall Participant Numbers

Figure 1: Programme Outputs and Results for Priorities 1 and 4



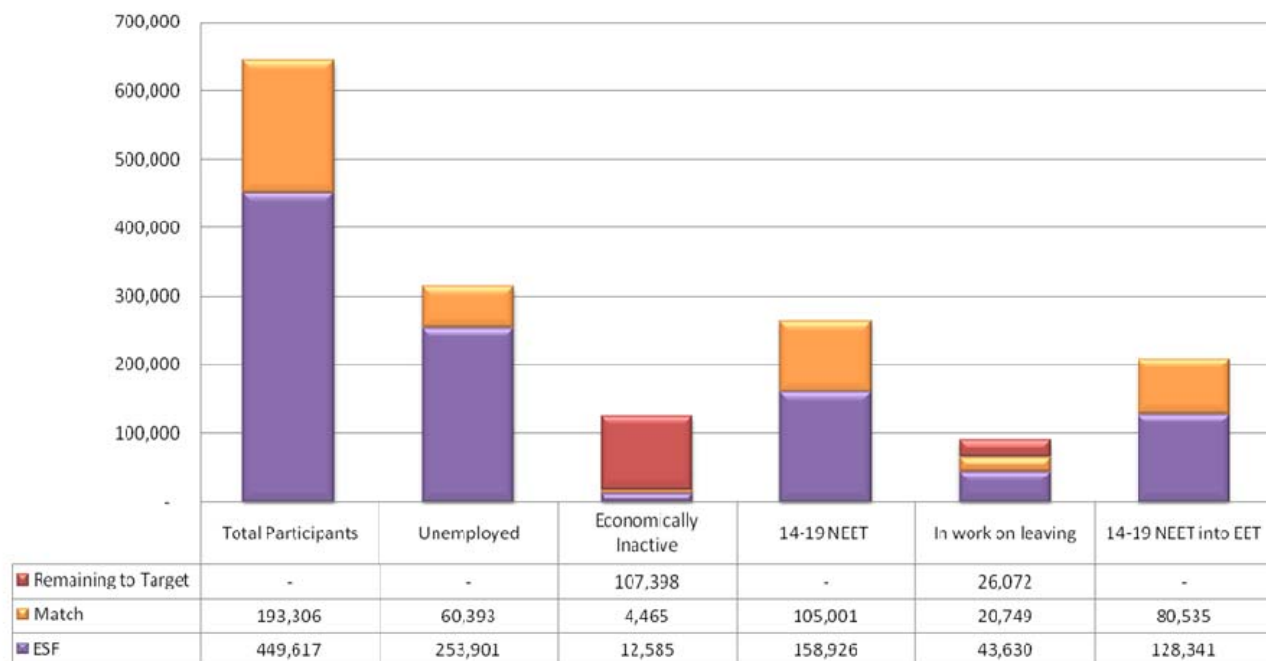
18 Overall participation on the ESF Programme in Priorities 1 and 4 is higher than expected and the following targets have been exceeded:

- Total participants, 39 per cent over target;
- Unemployed, 77 per cent over target;
- 14-19 NEETs, 139 per cent over target and the programme result;
- 14-19 NEET into EET, over target by 322 per cent.

19 Two of the measures have not been reached, the Output;

- Economically Inactive, 86 per cent below target;
- and the Programme Result 'In Work on Leaving', 29 per cent below target

Figure 2: Programme Outputs and Results for Priorities 1 and 4 – ESF and Match

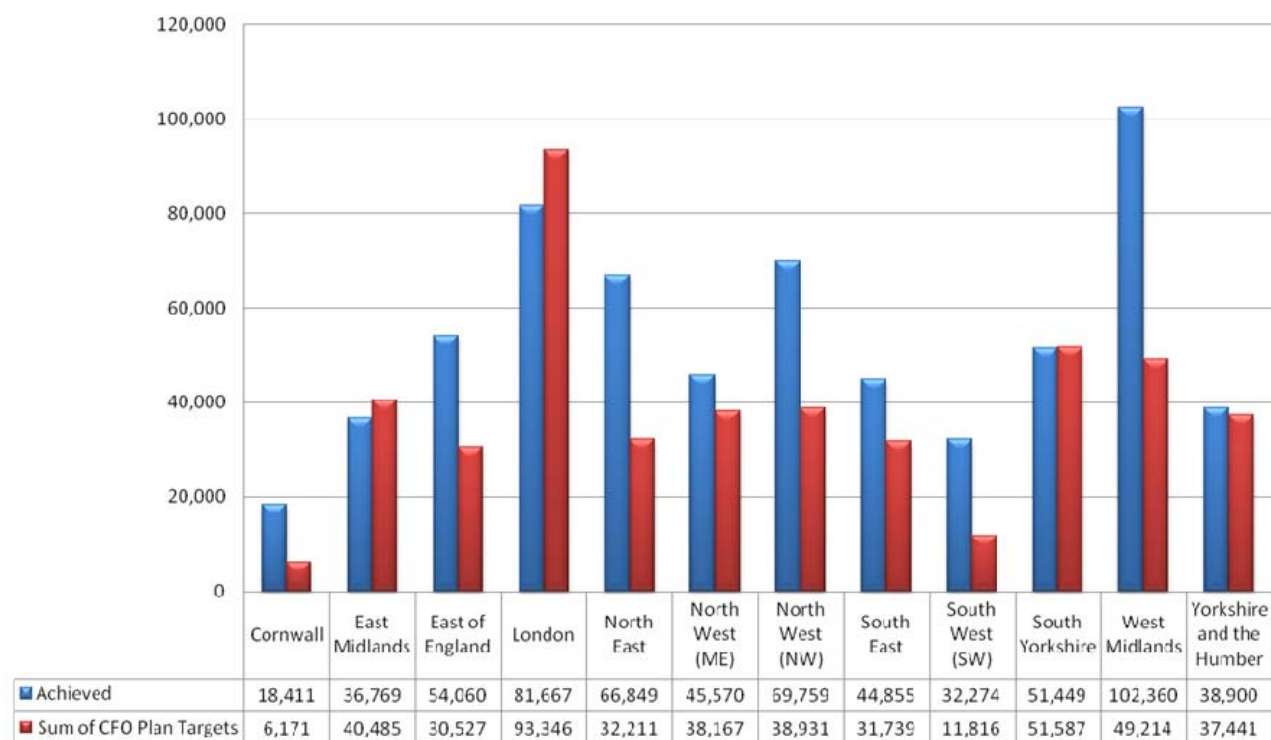


20 In each of the outputs and results the number of ESF Participants exceeds the Match Participants by on average 2:1.

21 Each output and result is looked at in more detail in the following sections.

Overall Participant Numbers by Region

Figure 3: Programme Participants by Region



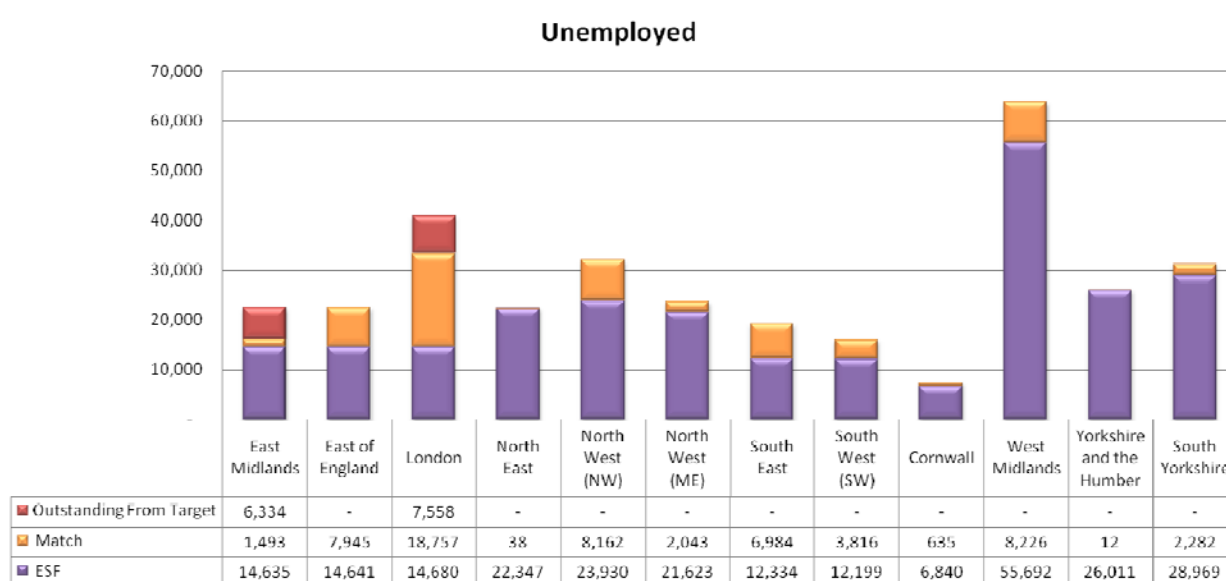
- 22 The overall CFO Plan target for total participants was exceeded in every region except the East Midlands and London. There remain two further claim quarters to the *nominal* end of the 2007 to 2010 CFO Plan activity. Overall participant numbers are monitored quarterly and the February 2011 claim has shown that East Midlands region has reached 98 per cent of the participation target and London 88 per cent of the overall target.
- 23 London and East Midlands are expected to reach the overall target when additional contracts for the part-ESF funded Next Step projects become part of the measurement of overall participation.

Employment Status

- 24 This section examines the employment status of the participants on Priority 1 and 4 delivery.

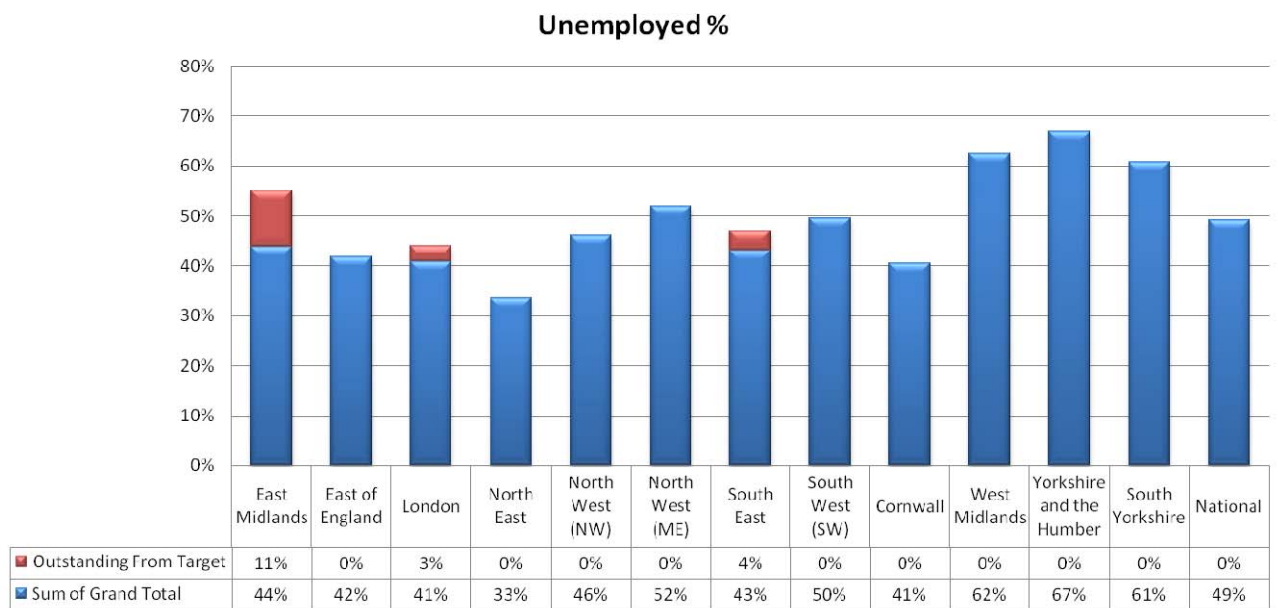
Unemployed

Figure 4: Numbers of Unemployed Participants by Region



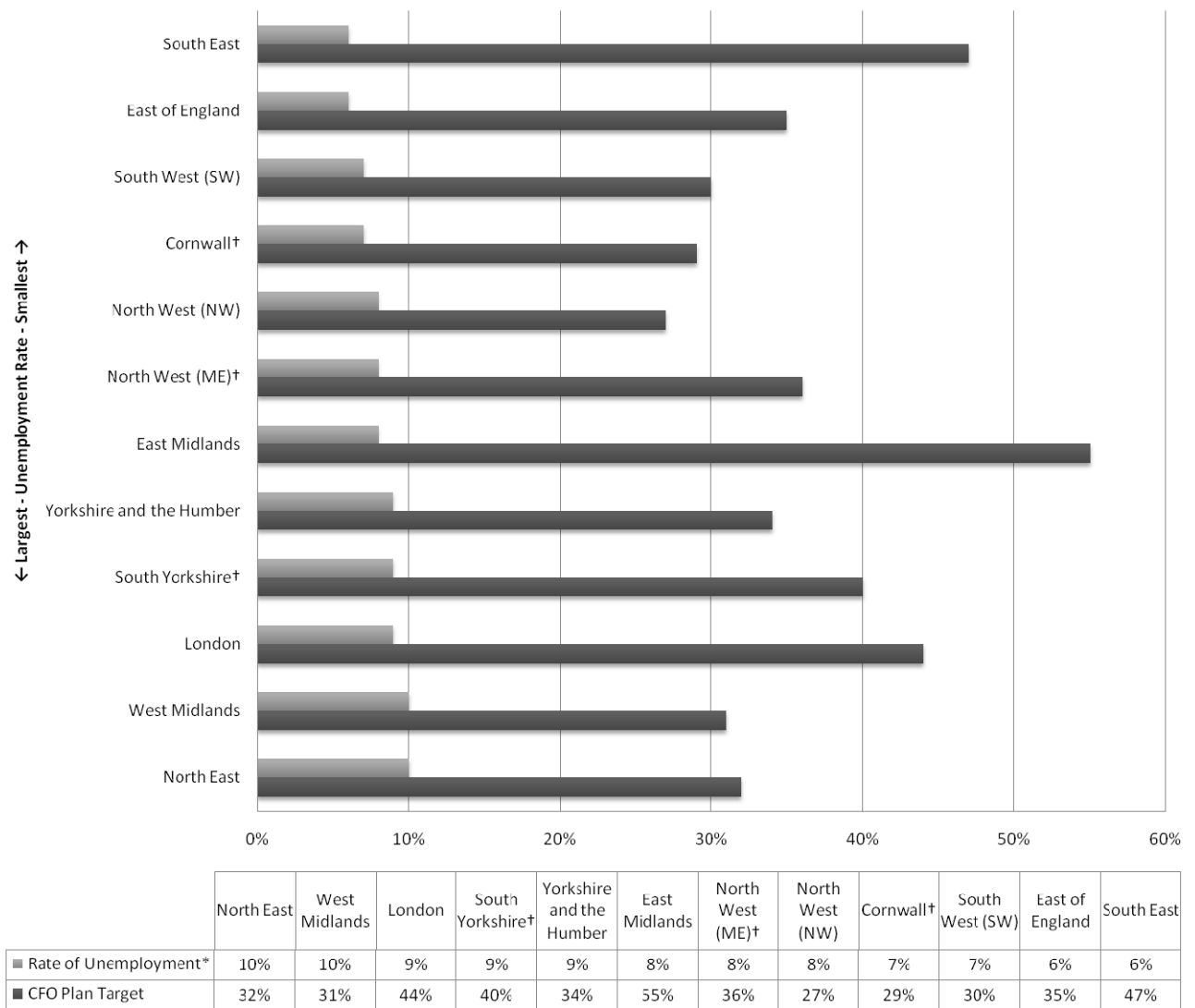
- 25 The Co-Financing Plan's targets in terms of numbers have been exceeded in all regions except for the East Midlands and London. Both these regions have yet to meet the overall participation target. It follows that each output and result may be below target.
- 26 The North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and Cornwall (Priority 4) all have low numbers of match-funded learners who are unemployed. This is purely due to which Agency mainstream funding is selected. In each of these regions there is a higher proportion of match funding from 16 to 18 Apprenticeships and a programme called Entry to Employment (e2e), both of which deliver to young people and would therefore be included in the 14-19 NEET category.

Figure 5: Proportion of Unemployed by Region



- 27 CFO Plan targets also measure the percentage of unemployed as an output. The targets have a wide range across Priority 1 from 27 per cent in the North West to 55 per cent in the East Midlands.
- 28 Figure 6 puts the CFO Plan targets into context by comparing them to current unemployment rates across the regions. The CFO Plans reflect the Regional Frameworks and are developed to meet regional needs. By comparing the unemployment rate (smallest to largest) to the CFO Plan target, it can be seen that the targets for South East, East Midlands and London are challenging, given the size of the unemployed cohort in the region.

Figure 6 Unemployment Rate and CFO Plan Targets



← Largest - Unemployment Rate - Smallest →

† Cornwall – South West Regional figure used, similarly Merseyside uses North West figure and South Yorkshire uses Yorkshire and the Humber.

* Headline estimates for January to March 2011, Office for National Statistics (ONS), Monthly, Online edition,
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15084>

Economically Inactive

29 Figure 7 below shows the numbers of Economically Inactive and the difference from the Co-Financing Plan Target. Figure 8 shows the achievements as a percentage.

Figure 7: Numbers of Economically Inactive by Region

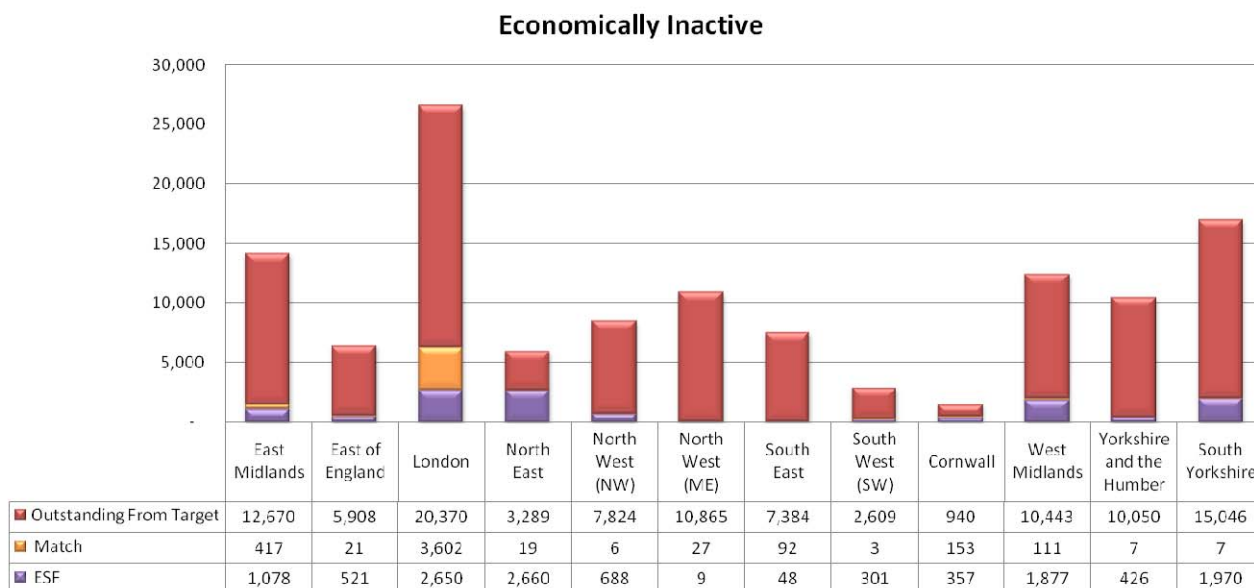
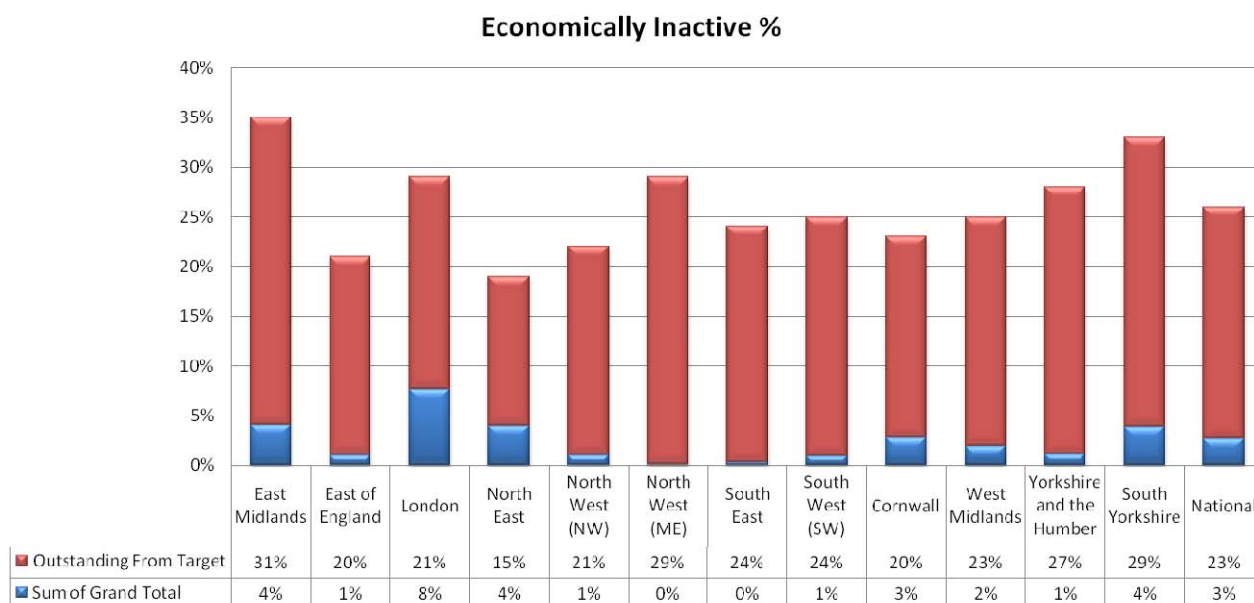
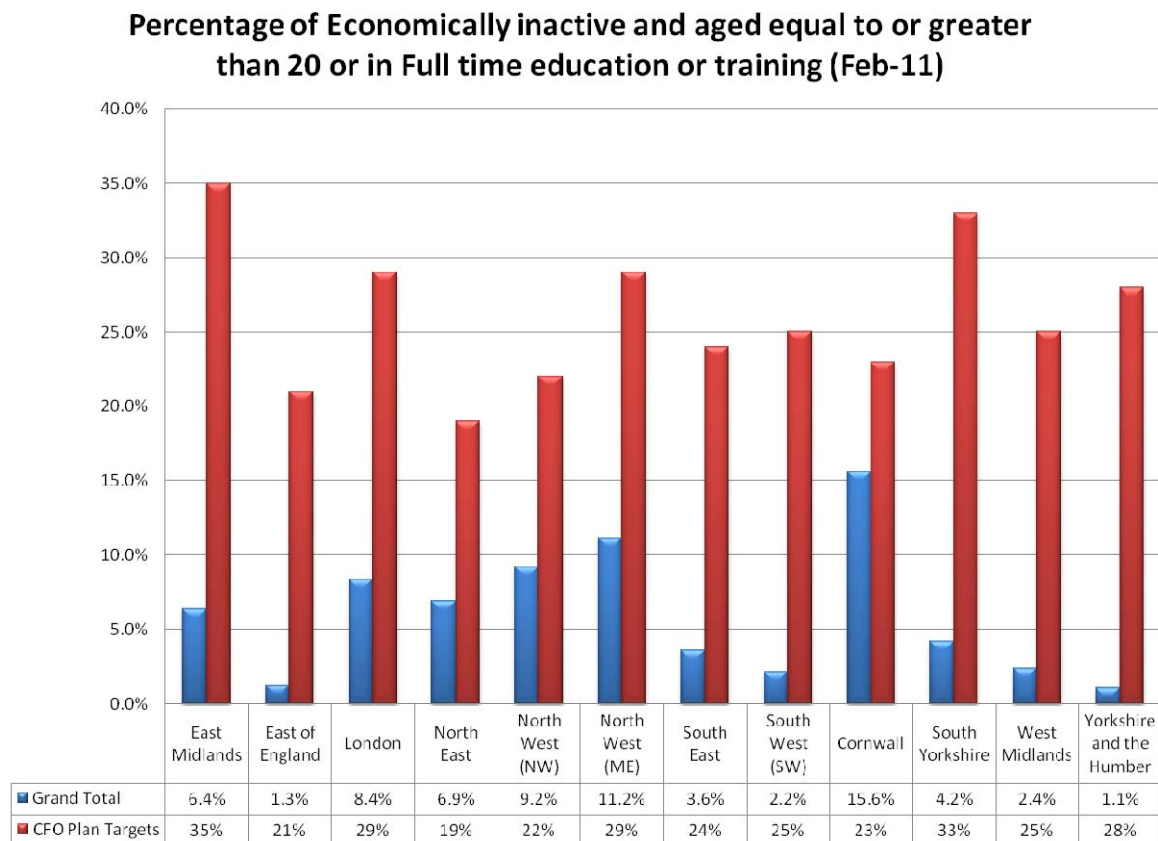


Figure 8: Percentage of Economically Inactive by Region



30 The Programme Outputs definition for Economically Inactive is *The number of 'participants' who are identified as ('Economically inactive' and aged equal to or greater than 20) OR in 'Full time education or training'* and the CFO Plan Targets reflect this definition. Figure 9 includes the additional count of participants in full time education. This reflects a truer picture than shown in Figures 7 and 8, however each region is still underperforming against the target.

Figure 9: Percentage of Economically Inactive (Programme Definition) February 2011

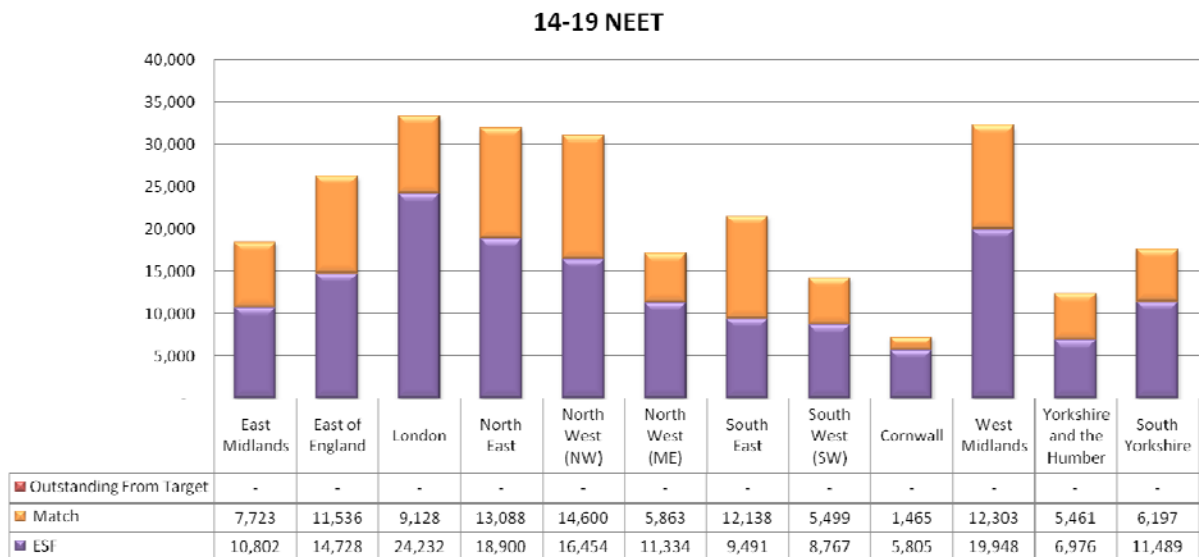


- 31 The Economically Inactive cannot be taken in isolation as the other “workless” categories of unemployed and 14-19 NEET have exceeded targets. The 14-19 NEET group includes young people that are economically inactive.
- 32 Moving forward into the 2011 to 2013 part of the Programme, there has been a change of UK Government and change in policy. The Economically Inactive will no longer be a target group for assistance from the Agency.

14-19 NEET

- 33 Figure 10 shows the numbers of 14 to 19 year olds not in education, employment or training. The target has been exceeded in each region. Across all regions the numbers in ESF funded provision exceeds match.

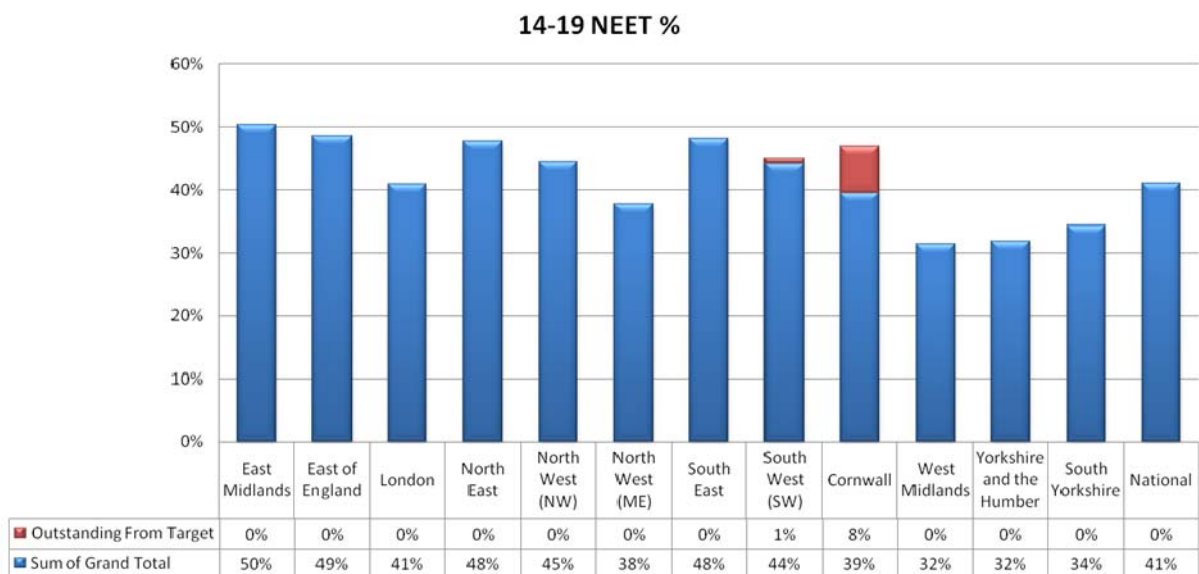
Figure 10: Numbers of 14-19 NEET by Region



- 34 Figure 11 shows the percentage of 14-19 NEET achieved and the remaining percentage to targets. Only the South West Competitiveness and Convergence regions are slightly short of the percentage target. This needs to be taken in conjunction with the other outputs for the workless cohort.

- South West exceeded the Unemployed target, 50% achieved, 30% target.
- Cornwall exceeded the Unemployed target, 41% achieved, 29% target.

Figure 11: Percentage of 14-19 NEET

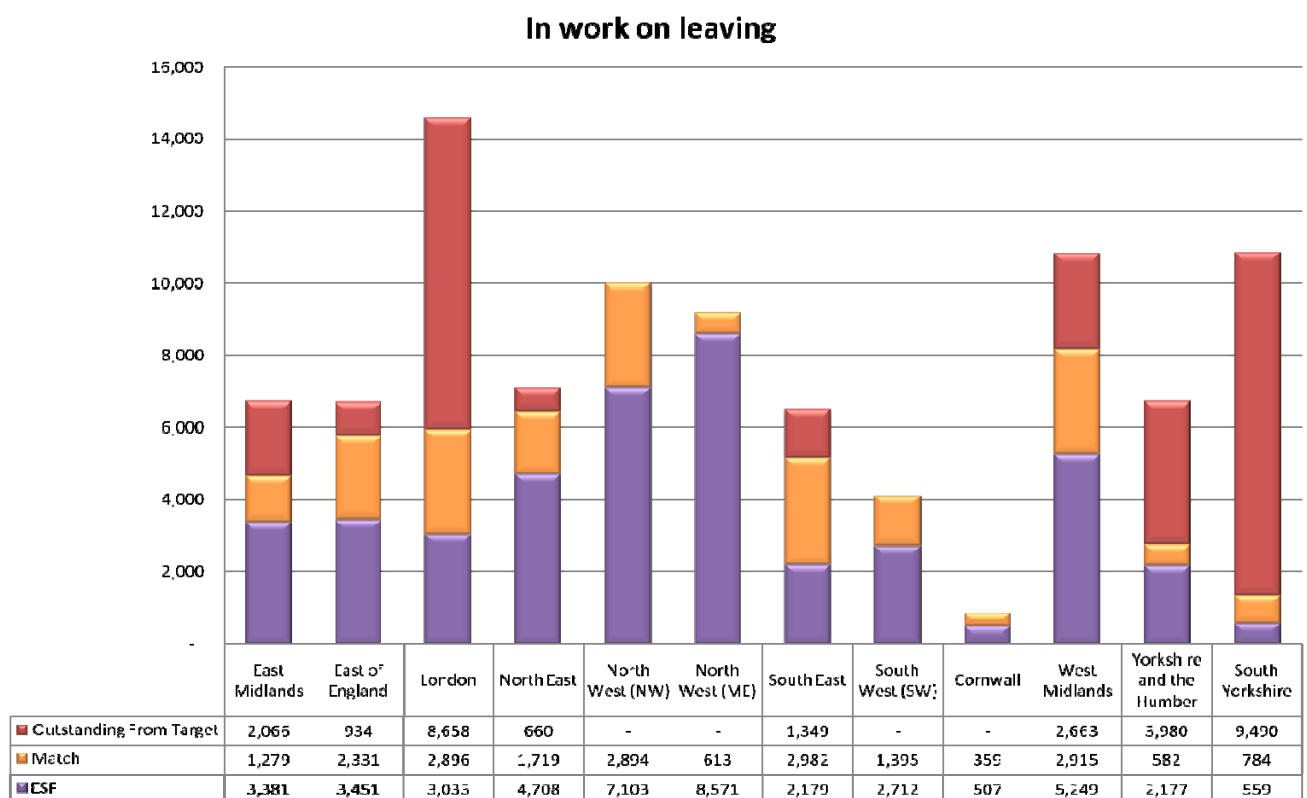


Priority 1 and 4 Results

In Work on Leaving

- 35 The regional frameworks were developed in 2006 to 2007 and the LSC Co-financing Plans were written in 2007. Since then the economic climate has change significantly across the globe and the impact on the United Kingdom has been the economic downturn.
- 36 The Programme Result of those “In work on leaving” is now harder to achieve in the current increased levels of now exists in a time of increasing rates of unemployment than was envisaged in 2007.
- 37 Figure 12 illustrates how the target for this result has been achieved by regions. Significantly, four regions have exceeded the target in terms of numbers, North West and Merseyside Phasing In and South West and Cornwall Convergence.
- 38 Five regions are approaching the target. These are East Midlands, East of England, North East, South East and West Midlands. Three regions, London, Yorkshire and the Humber and South Yorkshire remain significantly below the target. Referring back to figure 6 which shows rates of unemployment in London and the Yorkshire regions are at the higher level of unemployment but not the highest in the country.

Figure 12: Numbers “In Work on Leaving” by Region



39 Figure 13 shows the proportion of Priority 1 and 4 leavers who have found employment. Only Merseyside has achieved its target. Figure 14 shows the number of leavers in work compared to those in education and training.

Figure 13: Percentage of Leavers “In work on Leaving” per Region

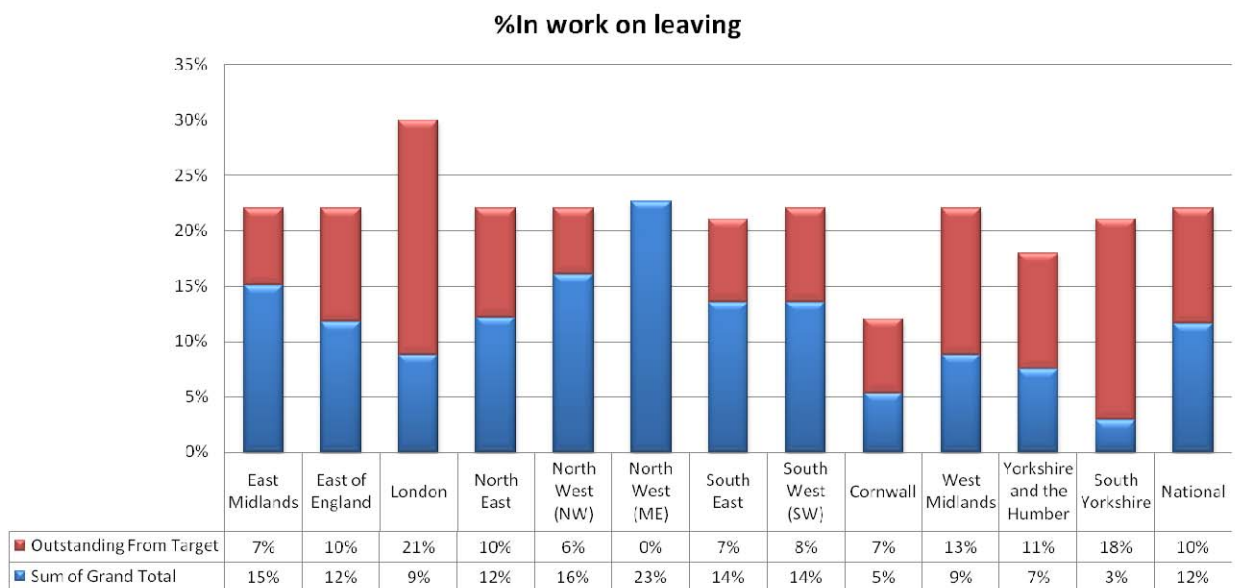
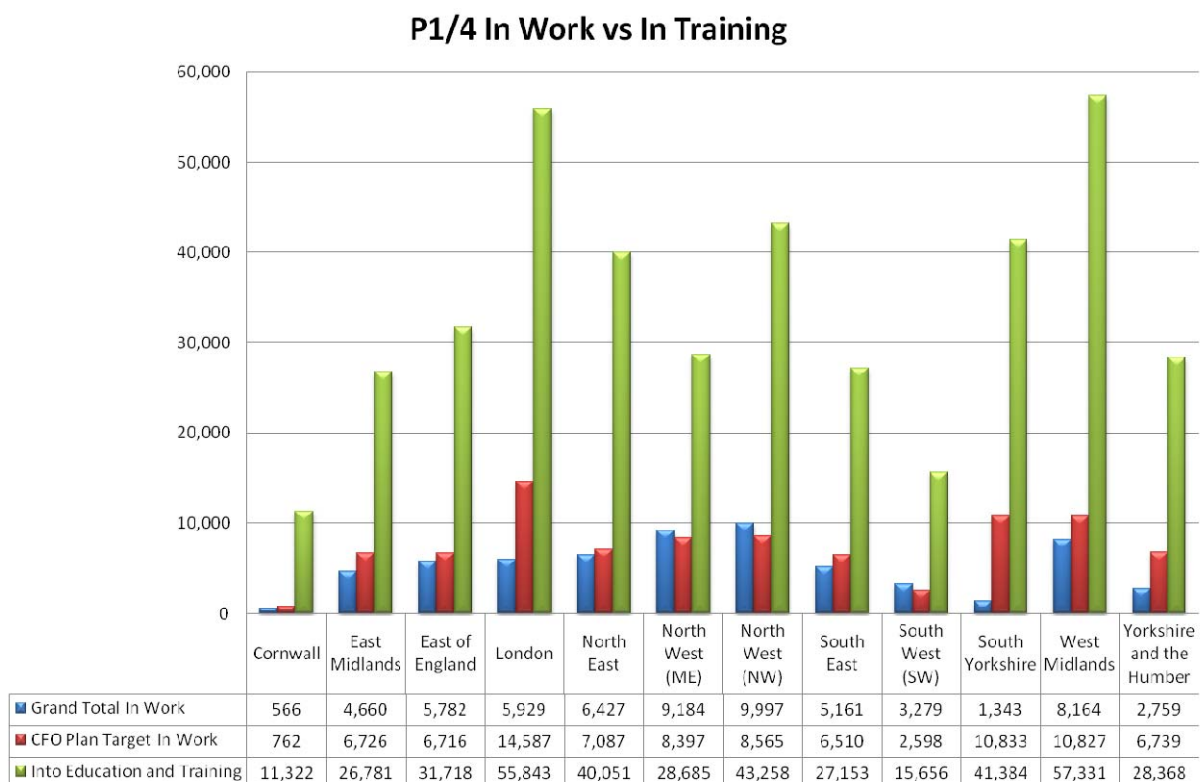


Figure 14: Numbers of Leavers in Work compared to Leavers in Education and Training



- 40 Within activity in Priorities 1 and 4 the majority of learners are continuing in education and training, so the success of the 'NEETs into EET' (Not in Employment Education or Training into Education Employment and Training) and continuing adult education, both positive outcomes, will have a negative impact on the percentage of those 'In Work on Leaving'.

14-19 NEET into EET

- 41 The achievement of this result has been extremely successful. Figures 15 and 16 show that the progression of NEETs into EET in terms of numbers and percentage has exceeded targets in every region. The actuals achieved are double the targets in nearly every region

Figure 15: Numbers of 14-19 NEET into EET by Region

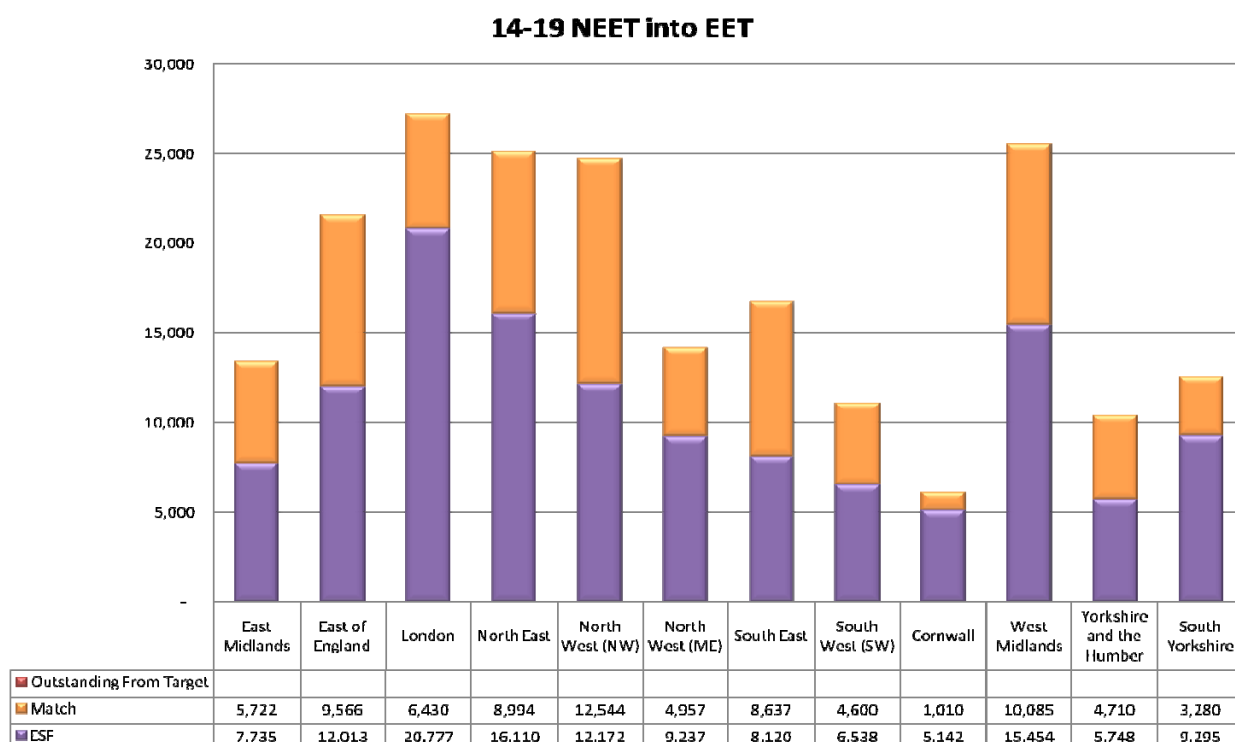
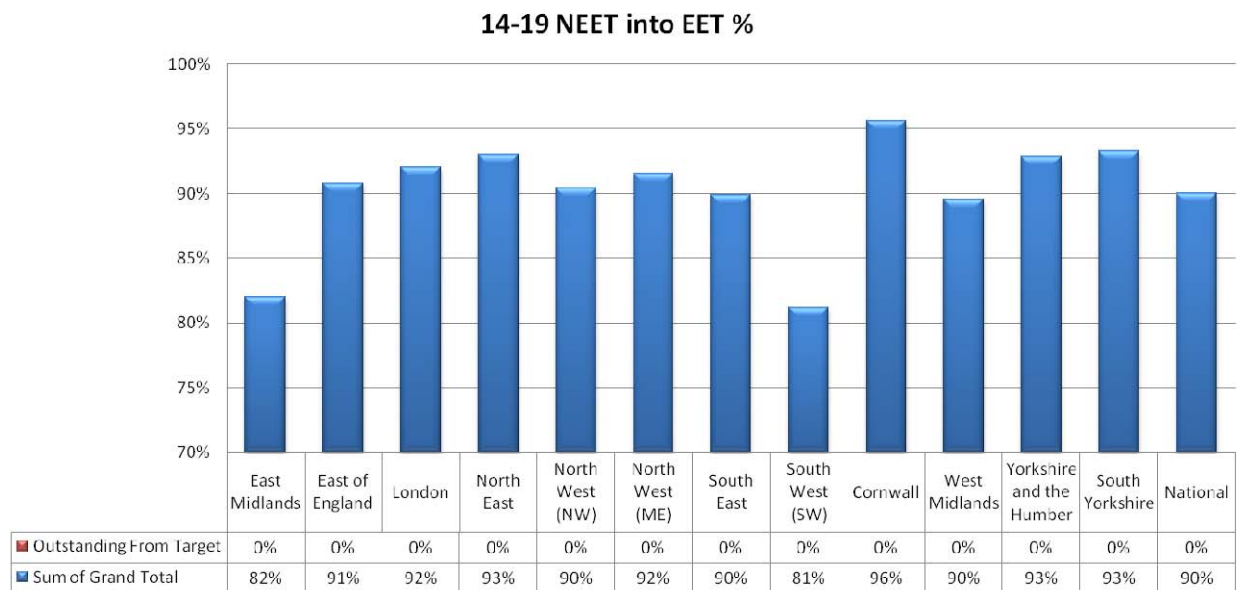


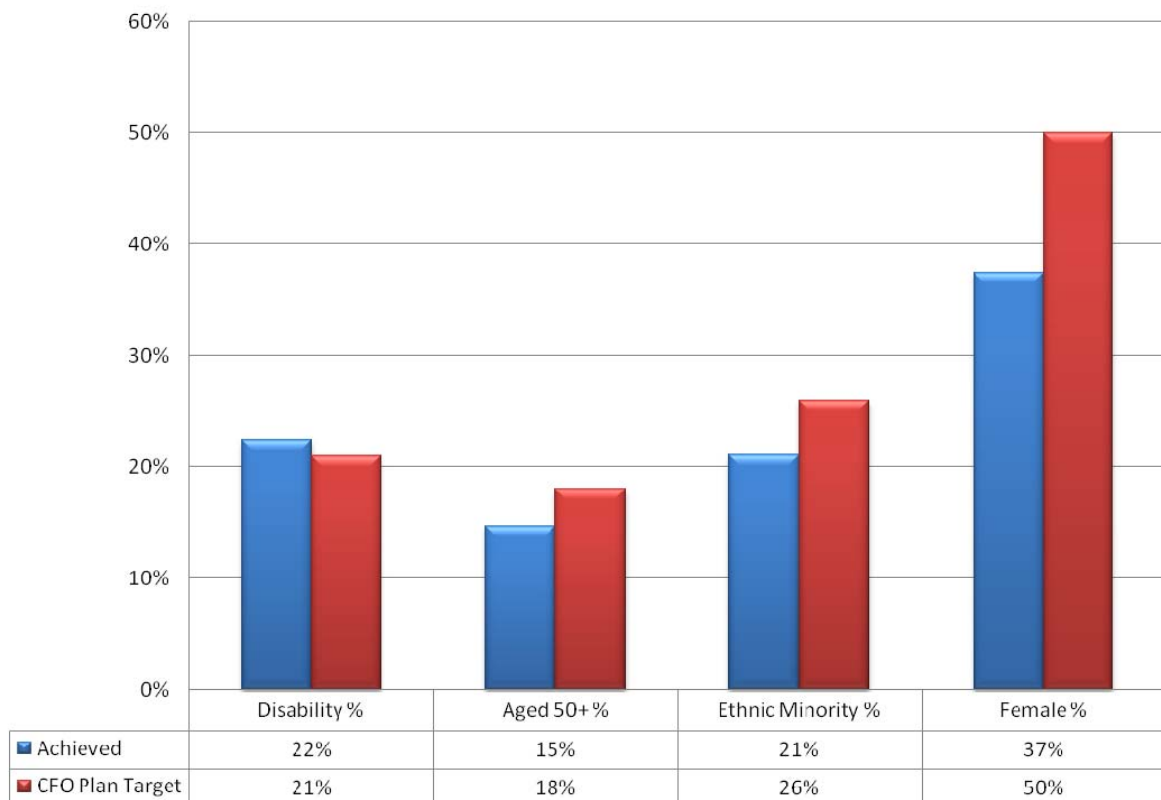
Figure 16: Percentage of 14-19 NEET into EET by Region



Priority 1 and 4 Target Groups

42 Figure 17 shows the outputs for target groups. These are measured in percentages and only the target for People with a Disability and/or Learning Difficulty has been met.

Figure 17: Priority 1 and 4 Target Groups Outputs



- 43 However, in terms of the numbers of participants from the target groups, these are performing well except for the 50+ age group and have exceeded the CFO Plan targets.

Figure 18: Priority 1 and 4 Numbers of Target Groups

Target Group	Number to November 2010	CFO Plans' Total
Disability	146,224	96,943
Aged 50+	55,354	83,094
Ethnic Minority	129,039	120,025
Female	241,848	235,434

People with a Disability or Learning Difficulty

- 44 Figure 19 shows that the target for the numbers of people with a disability or learning difficulty to be recruited onto the Programme has been exceeded in every region except London (where it is just below target) and Yorkshire and the Humber region. Figure 20 shows the percentage of learners with a disability or learning difficulty.

Figure 19: Number of Learners with a Disability or Learning Difficulty by Region

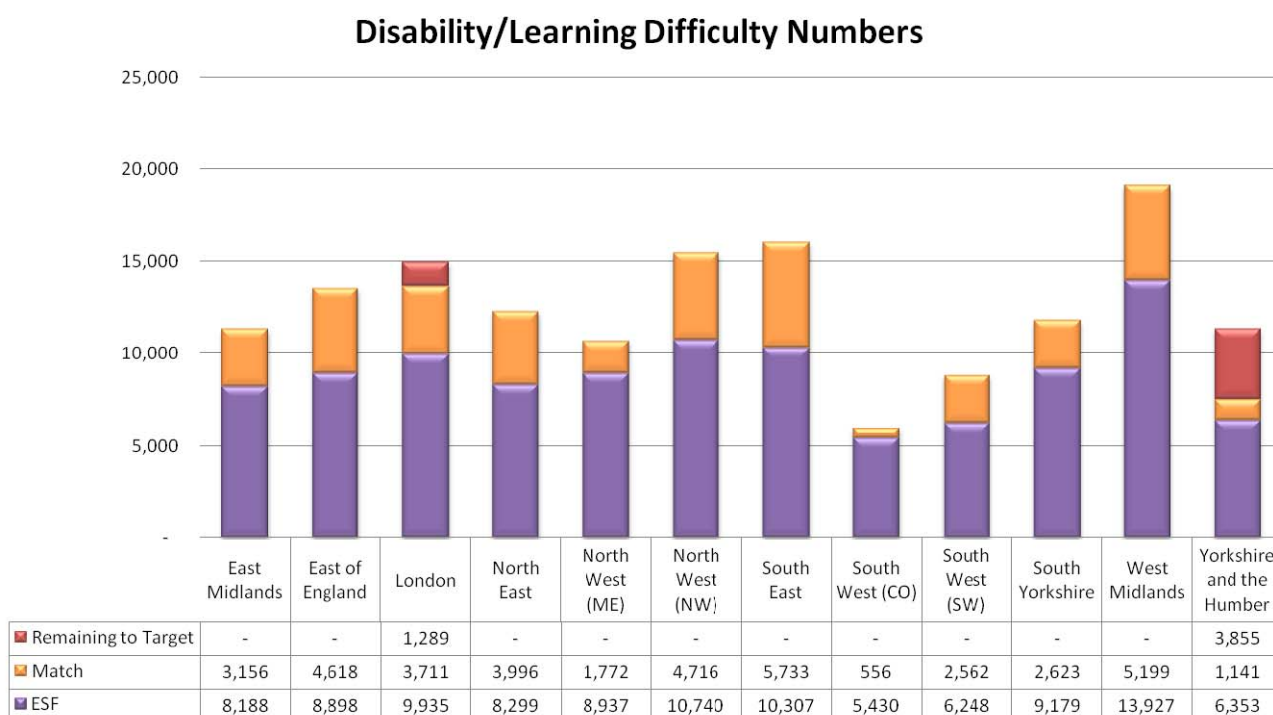
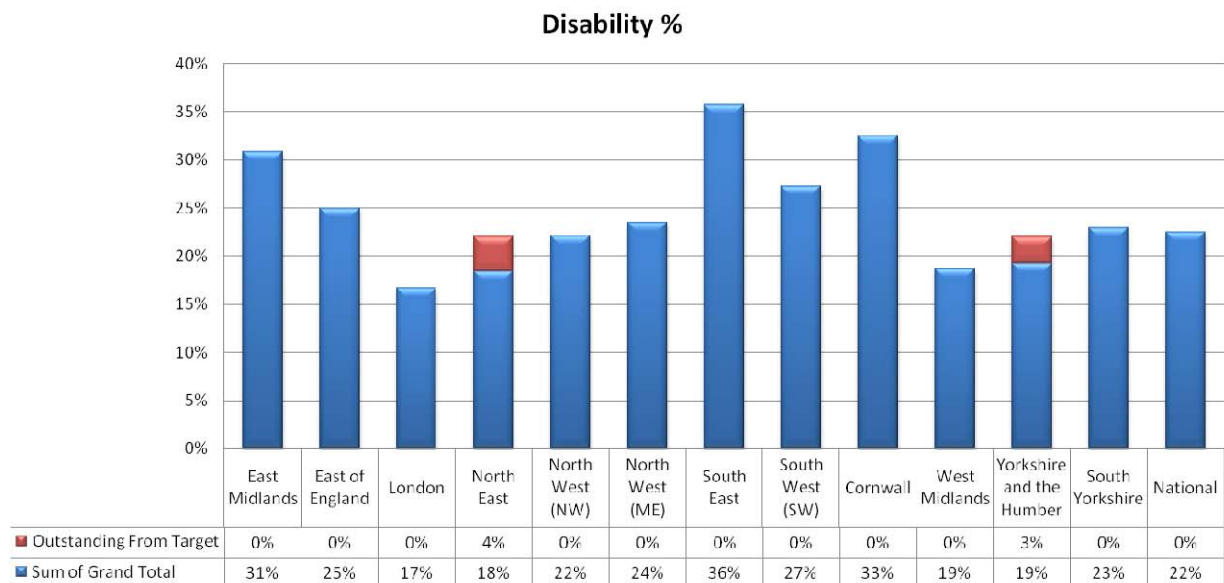
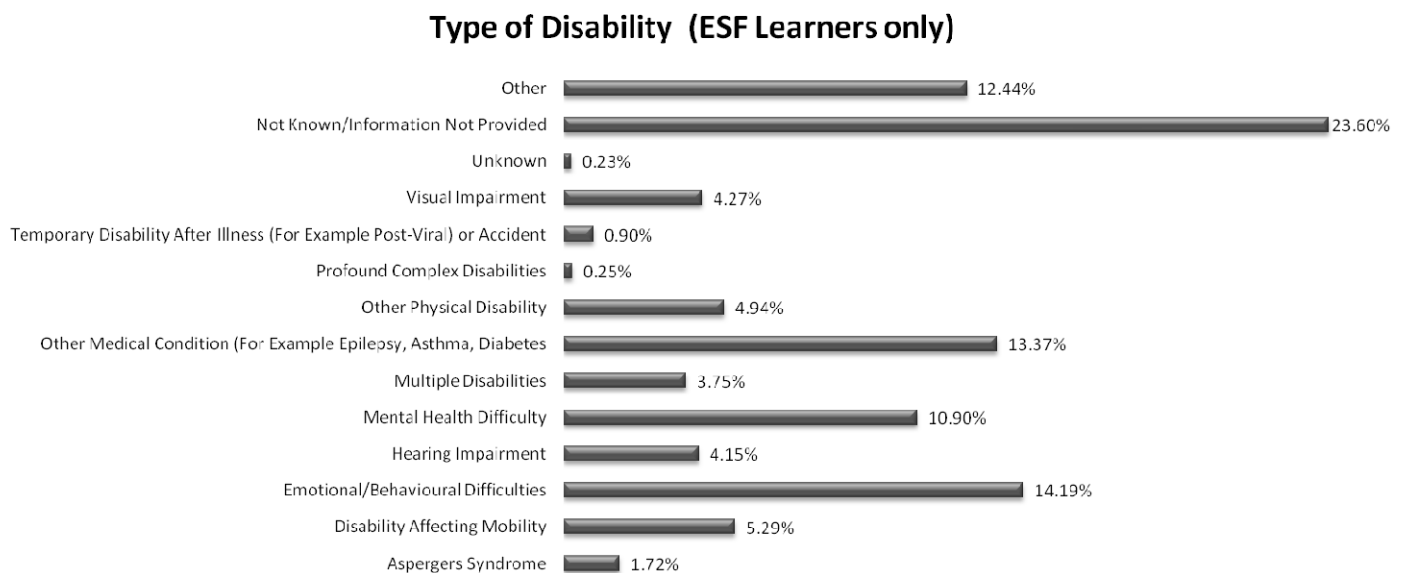


Figure 20: Percentage of Learners with a Disability or Learning Difficulty by Region



45 Figure 21 shows the type of disability and is a sample taken from the Individualised Learner Records of nearly 80,000 ESF learners in May 2011 where the participant has indicated that they have a disability, learning difficulty or health problem. In over one third of cases this information is either not known or in the category 'other'.

Figure 21: Type of Disability (Priority 1 and 4 Learners where one has been recorded)



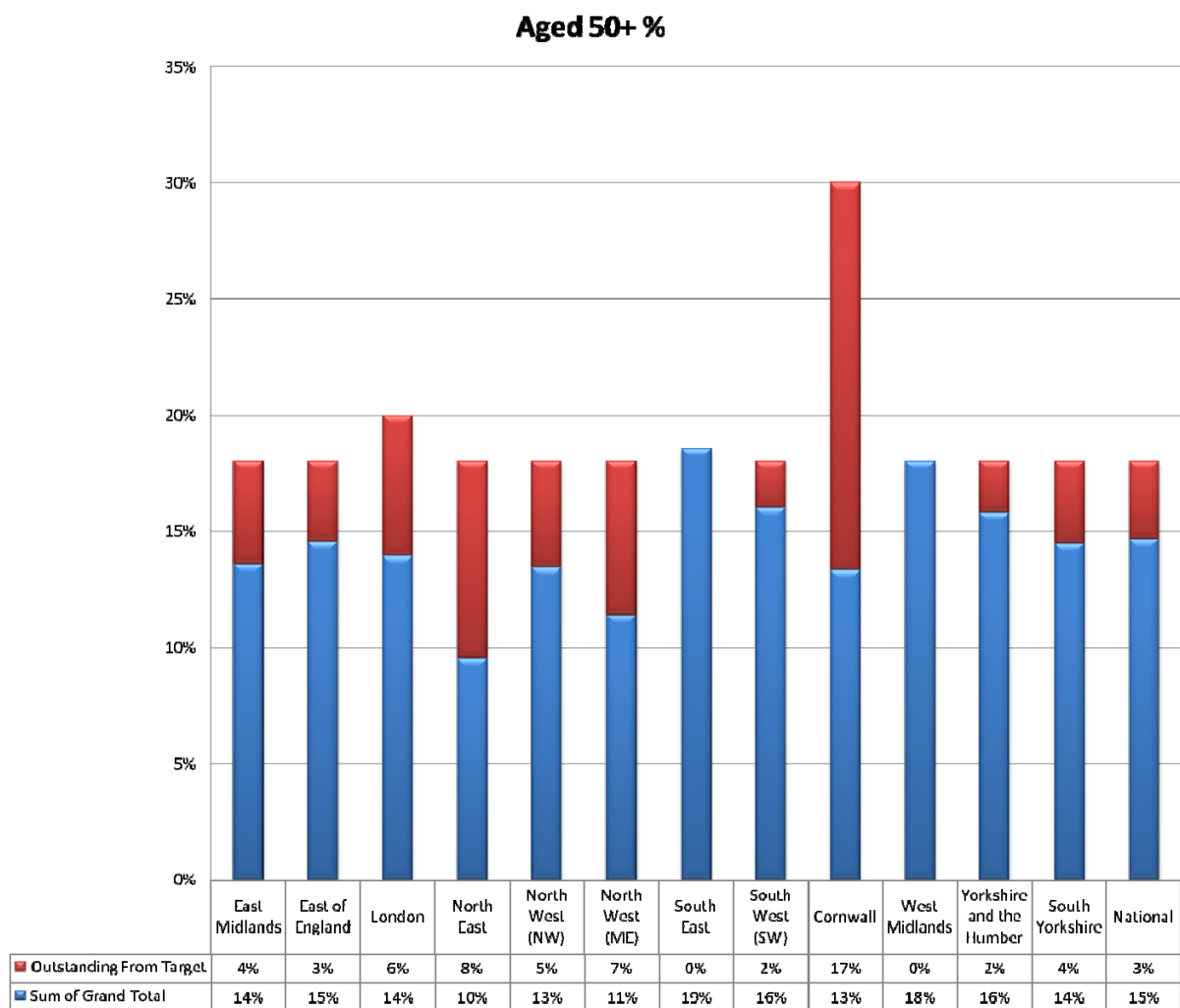
Source: 78,768 ESF individual learner records May 2011, where a disability had been recorded

- 46 From figure 21 it can be seen that there is wide range of disability. There are three points of particular interest.
- a The percentage of people with a disability where the disability is an emotional or behavioural difficulty is 14.19 per cent.
 - b The percentage of people with a disability where the disability is a mental health difficulty is 10.90 per cent.
 - c These proportions (a and b) are much higher in Priorities 1 and 4 than in Priorities 2 and 5 (see figure 61).

Participants Aged over 50

- 47 Nationally, the percentage of participants over the age of 50 is three per cent short of the target. From figure 18 it can also be seen that this target has not been met in terms of numbers. Figure 22 shows the percentage of participants aged over 50 for each region. The West Midlands and South East regions have reached the target and the East of England, South West and Yorkshire and The Humber are two per cent short of the target. The other regions are below target by between four per cent and 17 per cent with the North East and Cornwall some distance from the target by 8 per cent and 17 per cent respectively.

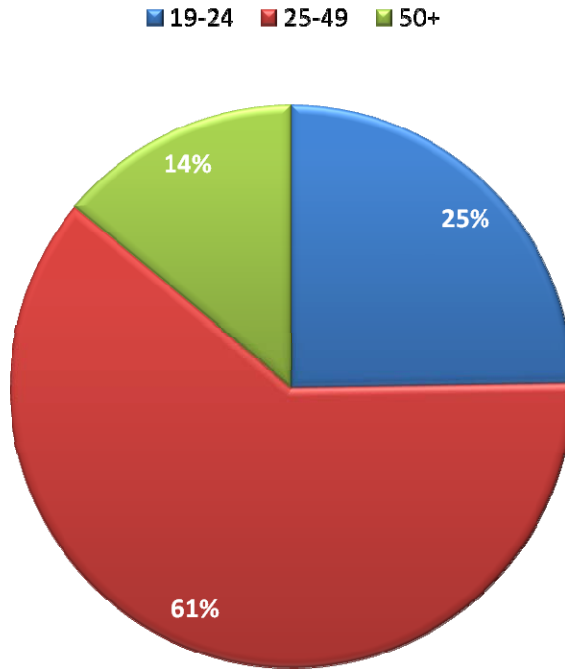
Figure 22: Percentage of Participants Aged over 50 by Region



- 48 Figure 23 shows the proportion of adult participants by age group. This data has been taken directly from the learners' ILRs in May 2011. This is a slightly different data set from the management information, but is consistent. A quarter of the participants are 19 to 24 which is a group in unemployment also of concern to Government. The 16-24 NEET group is now a focus of government policy.

Figure 23: Percentage of Adult Participants over 19 by Age Group

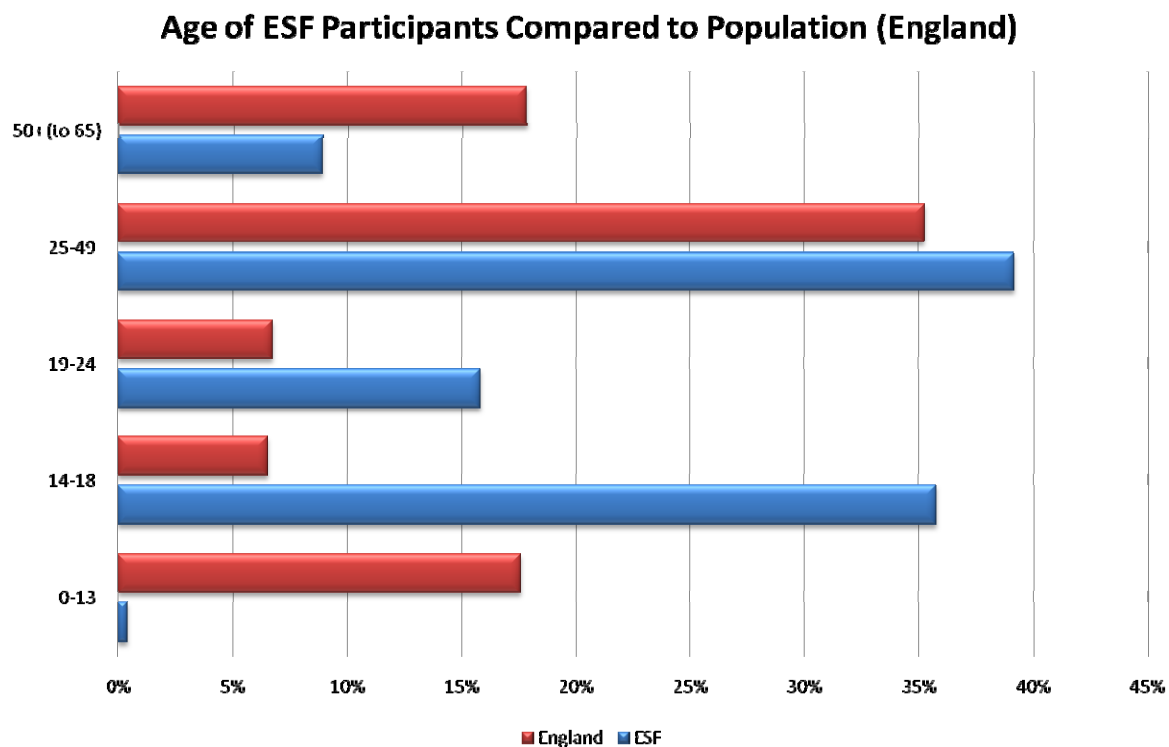
Proportions of Adult Age Groups



Source: 408,252 ESF Participants' ILRs from Priorities 1 and 4, May 2011.

- 49 Figure 24 compares the ESF cohort to the general population of England. A key target of the ESF Programme is young people and it can be seen that the proportion of participants from the *young* age groups 14-18 and 19-24 are much higher than the national average. The proportion of ESF learners in the over 50 (and below 65) age group is about half the national average.

Figure 24: Comparison of Age of ESF Participants in Priority 1 and 4 to Population of England.

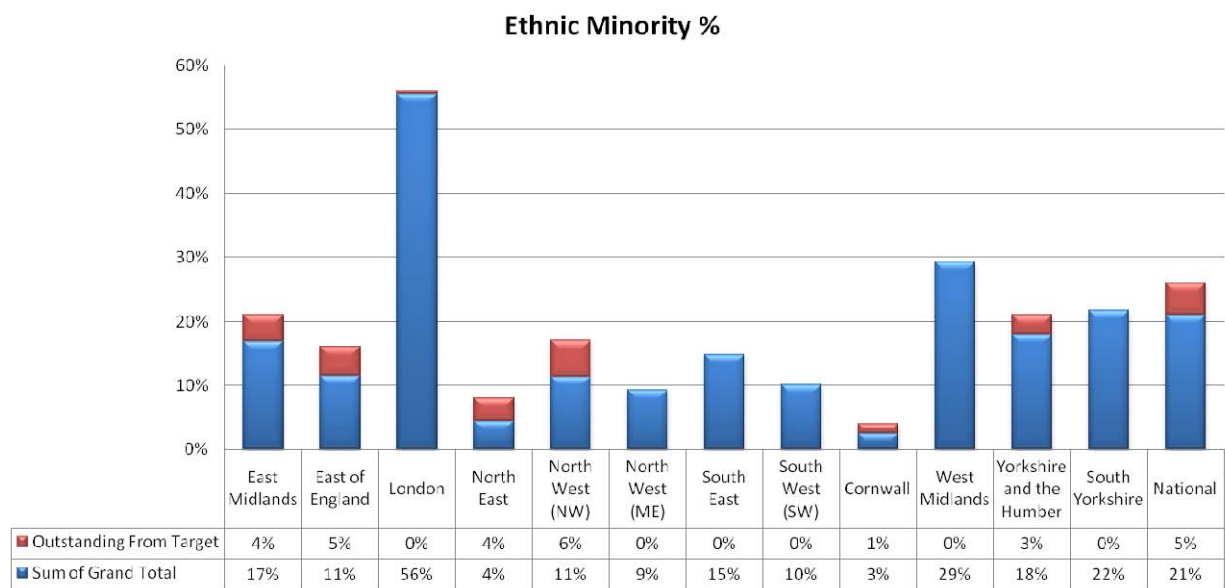


Source: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group for local authority districts and higher administrative areas in England and Wales for 2007. They were published on 5 February 2010. The estimates are consistent with the Mid-Year Population Estimates.

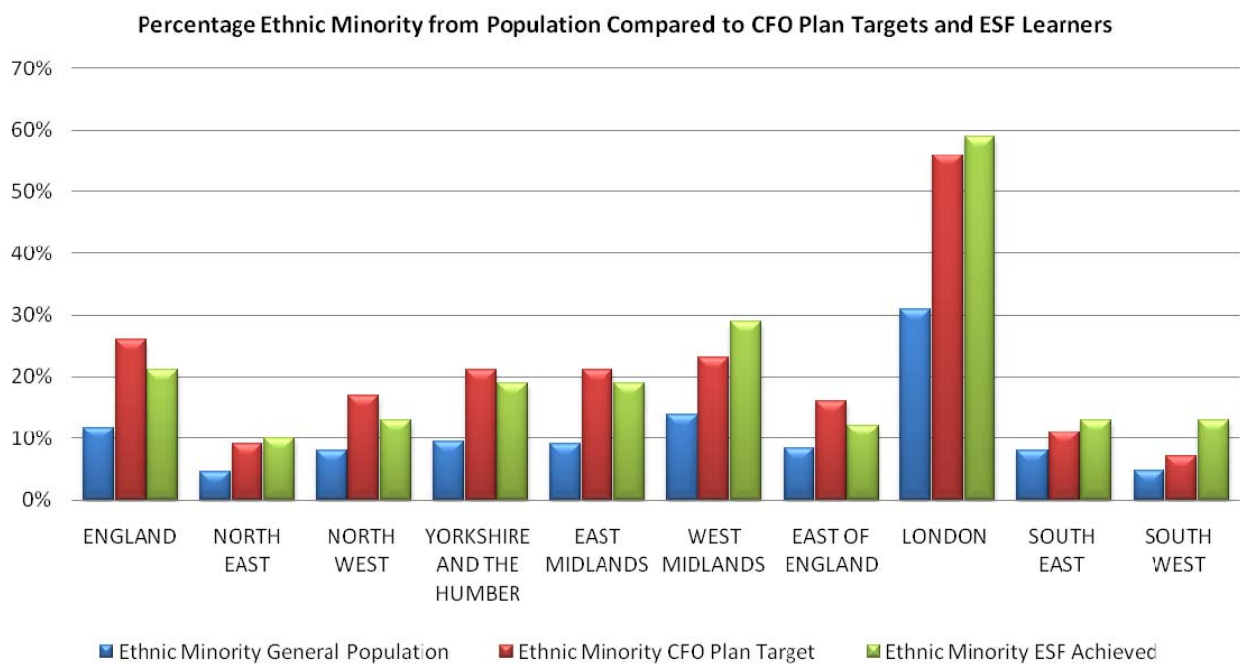
People from Ethnic Minorities

50 Figure 25 gives the proportion of people from ethnic minorities by region. London, Merseyside Phasing-in, South Yorkshire Phasing-in, South East, West Midlands and South West have all hit or exceeded the target. The remaining regions are slightly below target.

Figure 25: Percentage of People from Ethnic Minorities per Region



51 Figure 26 puts the targets and ESF Participant achievement into the National/Regional context of the proportion of people from an ethnic minority in England and the English Regions. Activity in Priority 1 and 4 will aim to attract a higher than the national or regional average of participants from ethnic minorities. Figure 26 below shows that the target in the CFO Plans is participation of double the average.



52 Figure 27 shows the ratio of the CFO Plan targets to the general population and where the CFO Plan target has been met. Where the target has not been met it is in regions where the target is over twice the proportion of people from an ethnic minority in the general population.

Figure 27: Context of CFO Plan Targets

Region	Ethnic Minority General Population	Ethnic Minority CFO Plan Target	Ratio of CFO Plan Target to Population	Ethnic Minority ESF Achieved	Target Met
ENGLAND	12%	26%	2.2	21%	No
NORTH EAST	5%	9%	2.0	10%	Yes
NORTH WEST	8%	17%	2.2	13%	No
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	9%	21%	2.2	19%	No
EAST MIDLANDS	9%	21%	2.3	19%	No
WEST MIDLANDS	14%	23%	1.7	29%	Yes
EAST OF ENGLAND	8%	16%	1.9	12%	No
LONDON	31%	56%	1.8	59%	Yes
SOUTH EAST	8%	11%	1.4	13%	Yes
SOUTH WEST	5%	7%	1.5	13%	Yes

53 Figures 28 and 29 show more detail in terms of ethnicity for Priority 1 and Priority 4 participants respectively. There is also a comparison to the national average and average for Cornwall in terms of Priority 4.

Figure 28: ESF/Match Participation by Ethnicity Priority 1

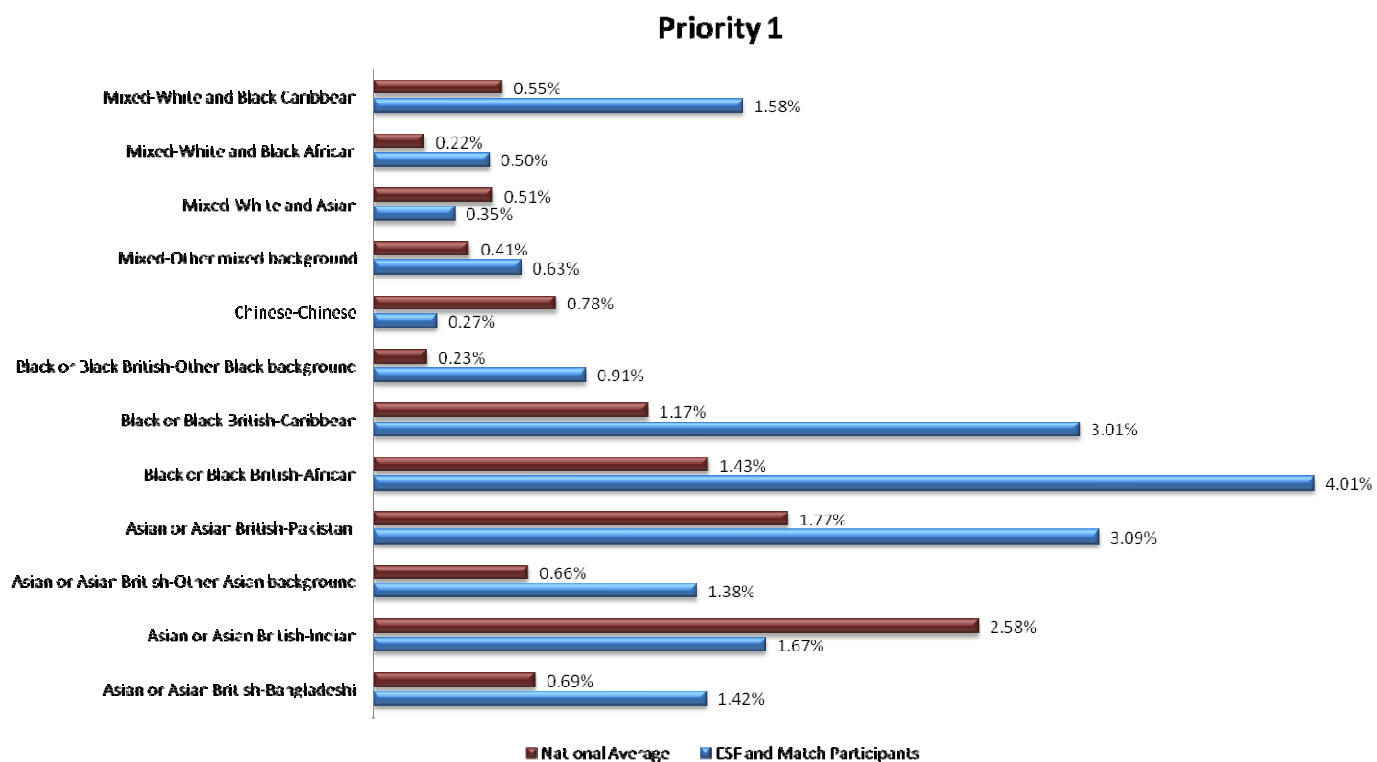
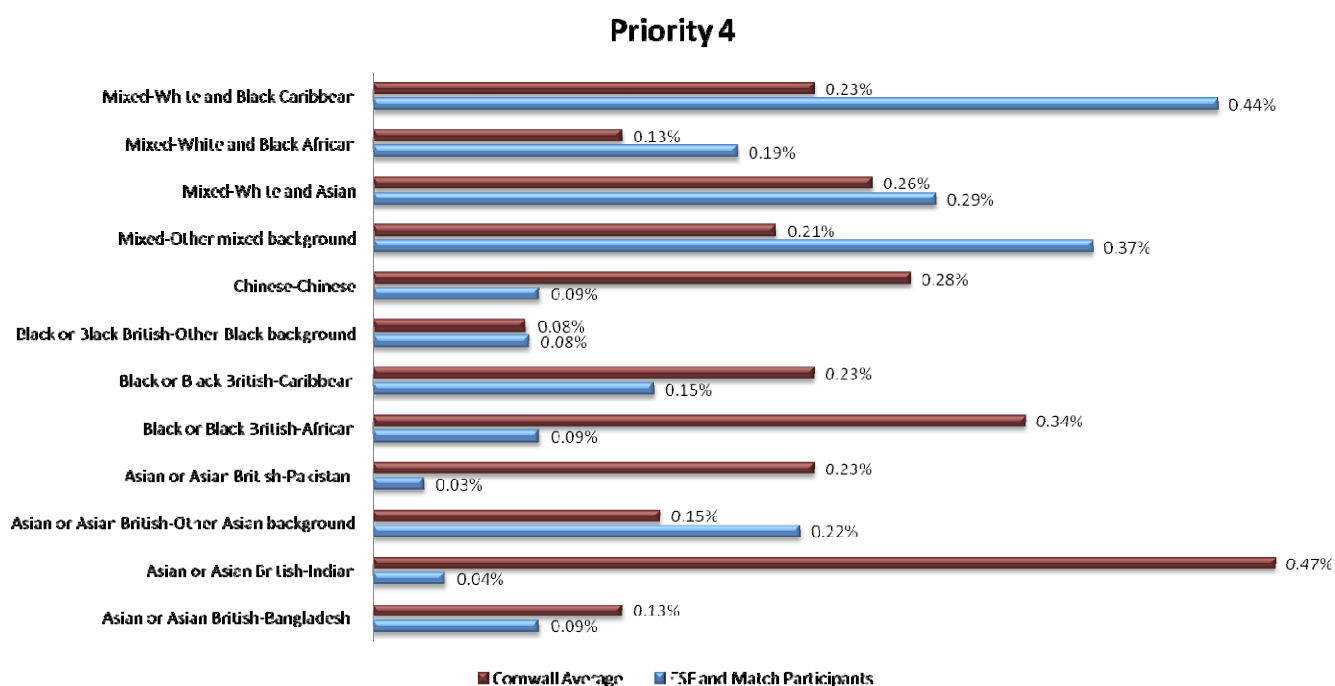


Figure 29: ESF/Match Participation by Ethnicity Priority 4



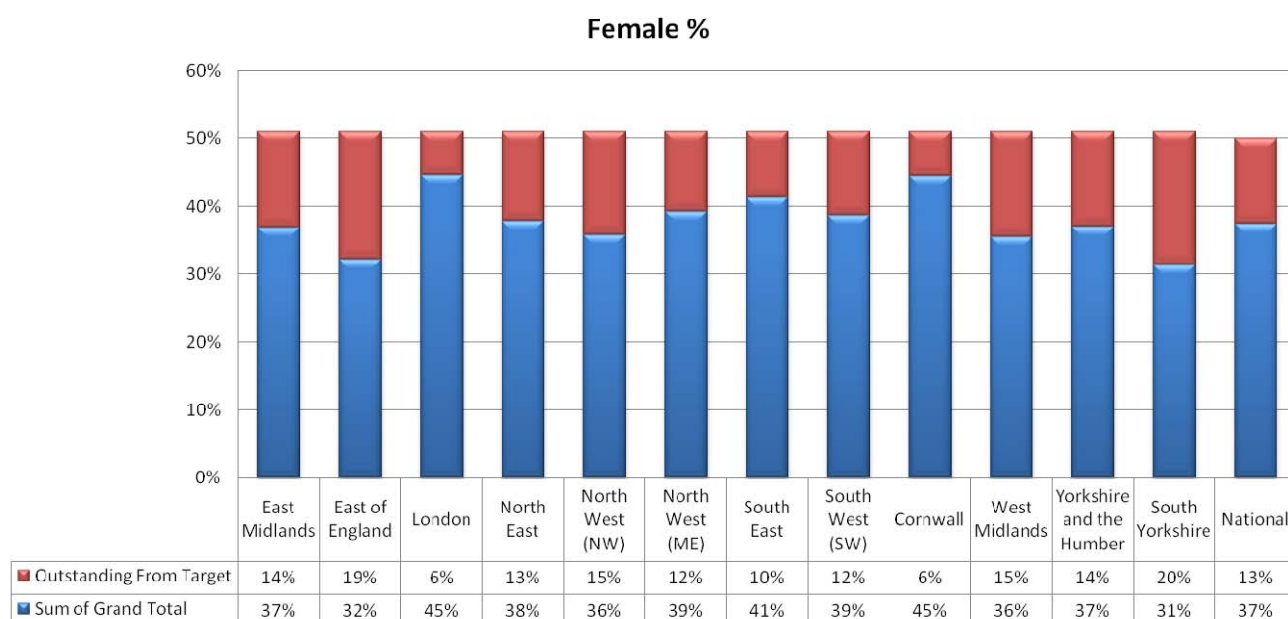
Source: ONS; <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238>

54 In terms of the particular ethnic group, as expected, participation on the Programme is higher than the representation in the general population across ethnic groups. Interestingly groups that are significantly under represented are:-

- Chinese
- Asian or Asian British Indian

Female Participation

55 Figure 30 shows the female participation on the programme for each region. In Priority 1. This has been disappointing in every region. Priority 4 has a higher level of female participation and is only marginally away from the target.



56 The Agency has commissioned research “Engaging unemployed women in ESF”. Unemployed was chosen as the employment status although this did not exclude Economically Inactive, because the participation of women was particularly low in Priority 1. The final research report is due to be published in July 2011. Early key findings show that:

- There is a high level of consistency in barriers to employment and training.
- It needs to be recognised that women are not a single homogeneous group
- There are a myriad of factors in preventing women partaking on the Programme.
- Some key findings – all learners / some are specific to women

57 The research indicates that barriers include:

- attitudinal- self, family, peers
- cultural expectations
- low confidence and self esteem
- gendered employment expectations
- poverty
- discrimination
- chaotic life circumstances
- multiple disadvantage
- caring responsibilities
- access to information
- location of training
- skills and capabilities
- English language
- accessible and realistic employment opportunities

58 The research has also identified successful strategies from case studies from providers which include:

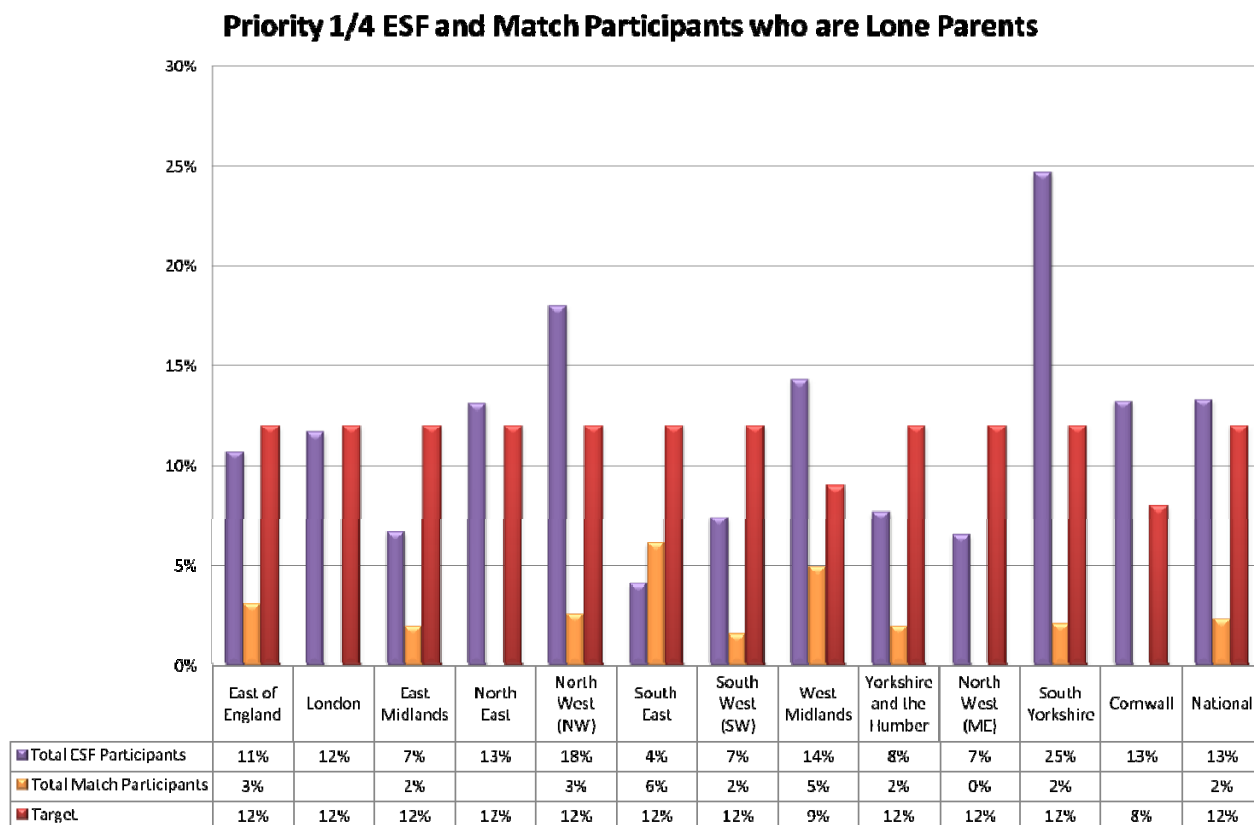
- researching the background of participants and their needs
- building local relationships
- engagement with women via informal networks, word of mouth and local voices
- informed referral through partnership with DWP/Job Centre Plus
- outreach
- informal activity
- advertising
- using social media
- women only provision where appropriate
- childcare and support for other care
- information advice and guidance throughout.

59 The Agency will review the conclusions and recommendations of the research report once the final version is completed.

Lone Parents

60 Figure 31 shows the percentage of Priority 1 and 4 participants who are lone parents. This information is not available via the learners' ILR and has been taken from the sample of LSC learners researched in the European Social Fund Cohort Study Wave 1¹. The percentage of Priority 1 and 4 participants that are lone parents is a target in the CFO Plans. No data on parental status is collected in the ILR so this output can only be measured through surveys.

Figure 31: ESF and Match Participants Surveyed who are Lone Parents by Region

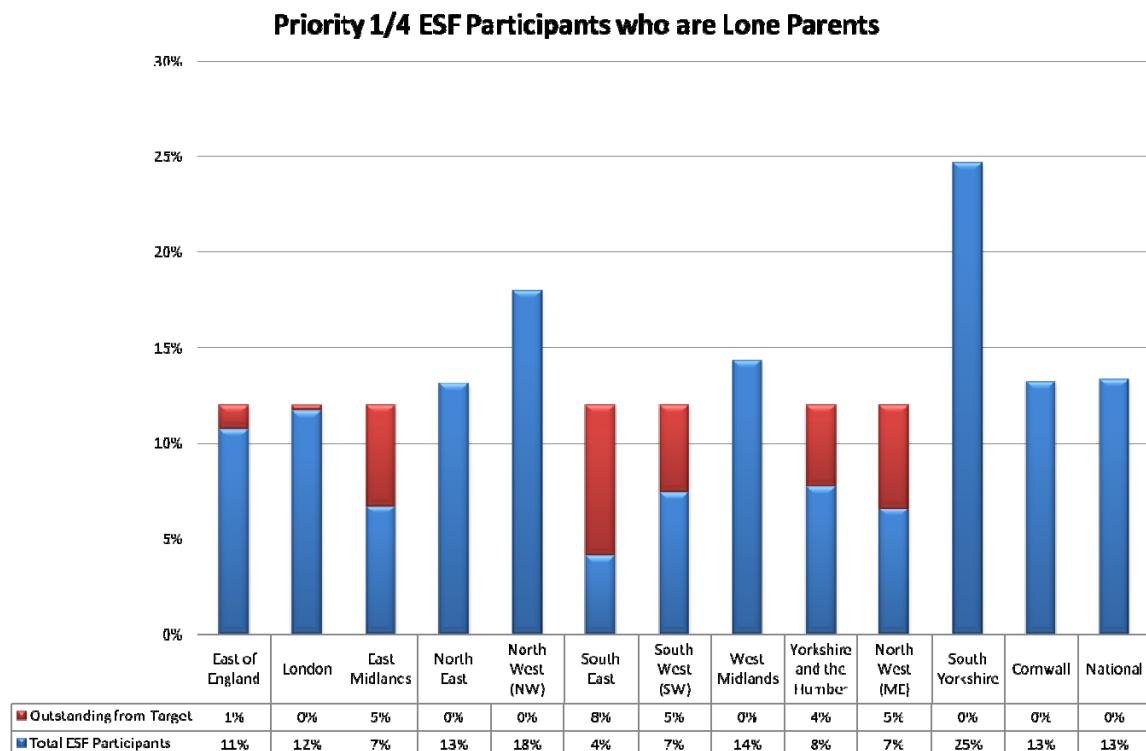


Source: European Social Fund Cohort Survey: Wave 1 LSC Data Only
DWP/NatCen. Sample size 2,632

61 Figure 32 shows the proportion of ESF funded learners who are lone parents. There is significant variation between regions. Overall the national target for the ESF participants has been met, but 5 out of the 12 regions are some distance from the target.

¹ European Social Fund Cohort Study Wave 1 by Emma Drever and Cheryl Lloyd (NatCen) for DWP. DWP Research Report 647.

Figure 32: ESF Participants Surveyed who are Lone Parents



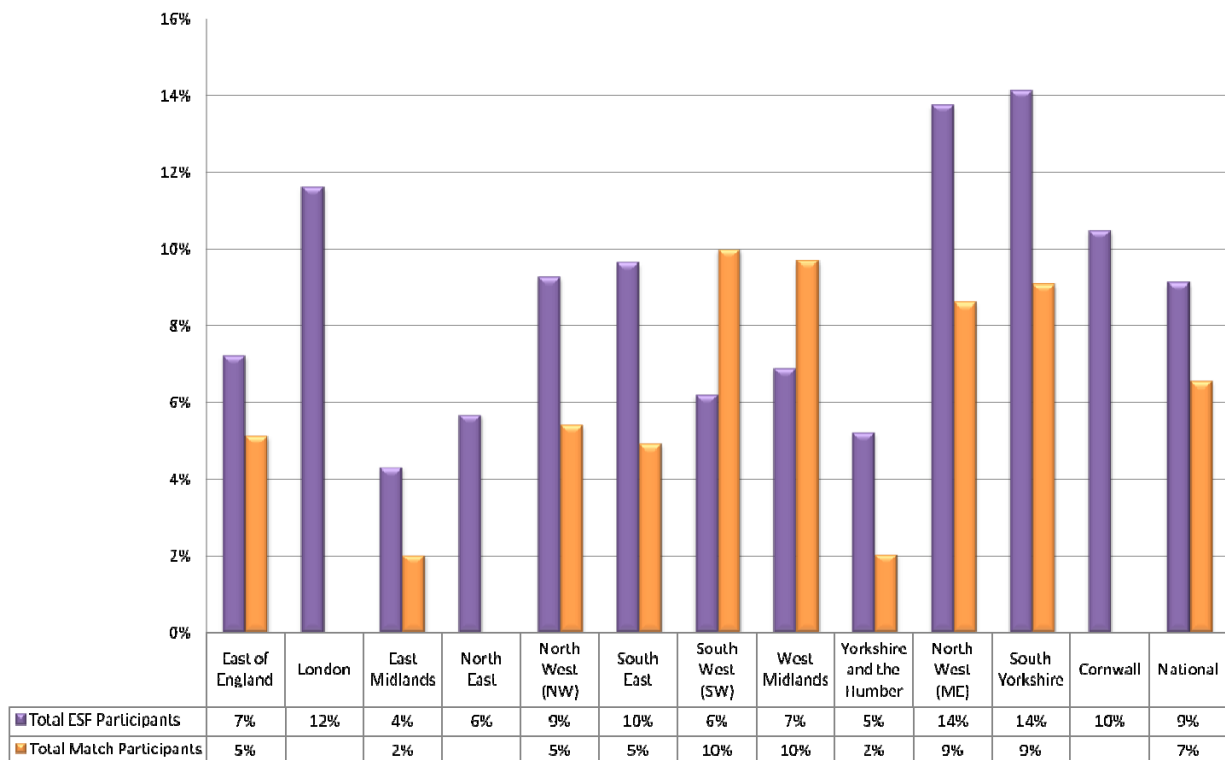
62 Whilst there is no question about the validity of the data, the learner sample was taken from the LSC claim of February 2009 when there were just over 60,000 learners on LSC provision in Priority 1 and 4. By November 2010 there were over ten times that amount – 642,512 participants. Early delivery of the Programme was also geared towards 14-19 NEET delivery.

Source: European Social Fund Cohort Survey: Wave 1 LSC Data Only
DWP/NatCen. Sample size 1,848

Learners with Caring Responsibilities

- 63 There is one output indicator without a quantified target; participants who receive support with caring responsibilities. Figure 33 shows the percentage of learners sampled who have caring responsibilities for ESF and Match participants. There is no discernable trend across or between regions.

Priority 1/4 ESF and Match Participants who have Caring Responsibilities



Source: European Social Fund Cohort Survey: Wave 1 LSC Data Only
DWP/NatCen. Sample size 4,198

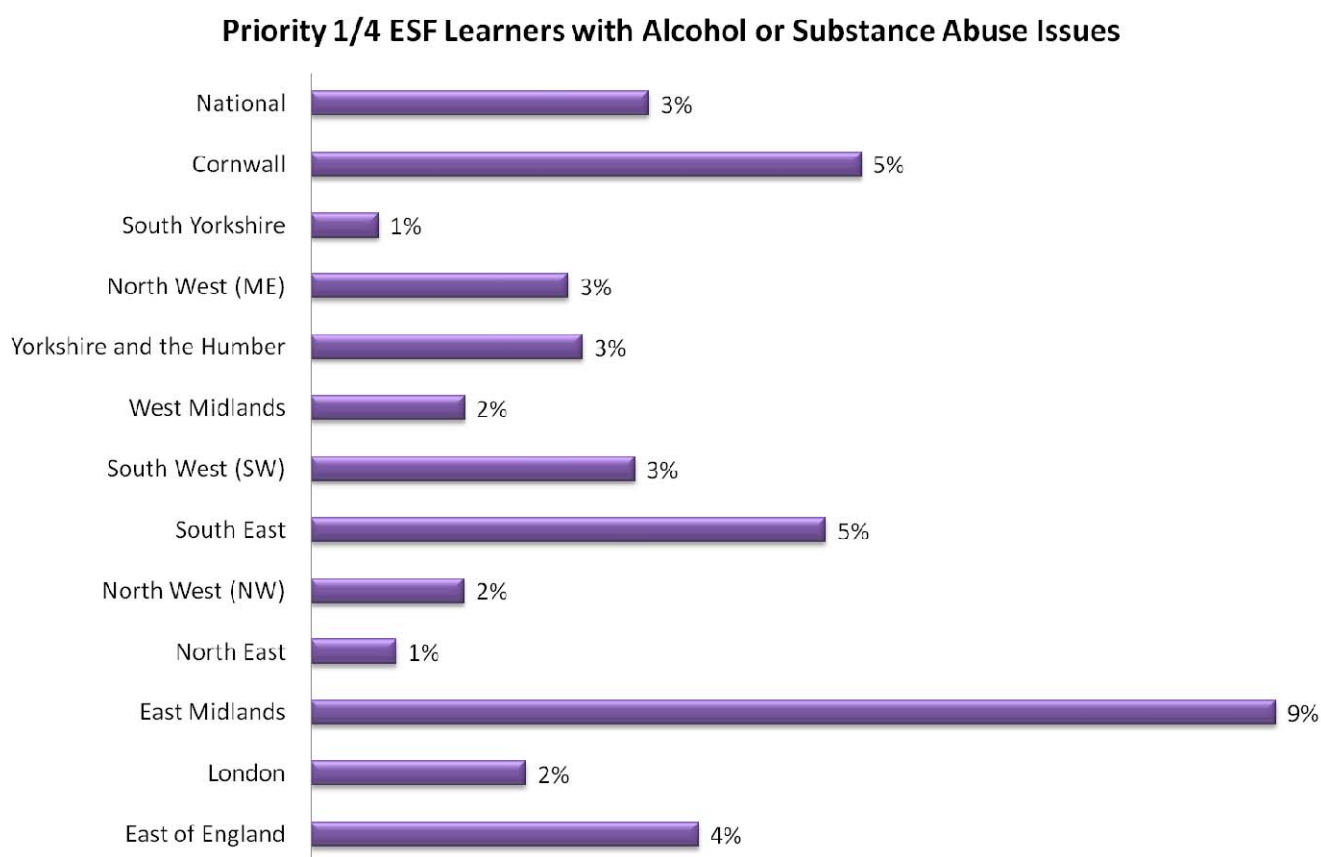
Priority 1&4 Other Learner Attributes

Learners with Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Problems

- 64 The Operational Programme states that activities will also address specific barriers to work faced by workless people who are homeless, refugees or have substance abuse, alcohol or drug problems.
- 65 It is estimated that one in 17 people (6.4 per cent) in Great Britain are alcohol dependent.² Information on alcohol or substance abuse is not recorded on learner records (ILR). This information is only recorded through survey process. Figure 34 uses raw data from the Cohort Study. There is no target for participants with drug/alcohol problems; figure 33 just shows an interesting comparison across regions.
- 66 There are such low numbers indicated in Priorities 2 and 5 that it does not register.

² NHS Information Centre, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2009 from drink aware website
<http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/facts/factsheets/alcohol-dependence>

Figure 34: Percentage of Sample of ESF Learners with Drug/Alcohol Issues



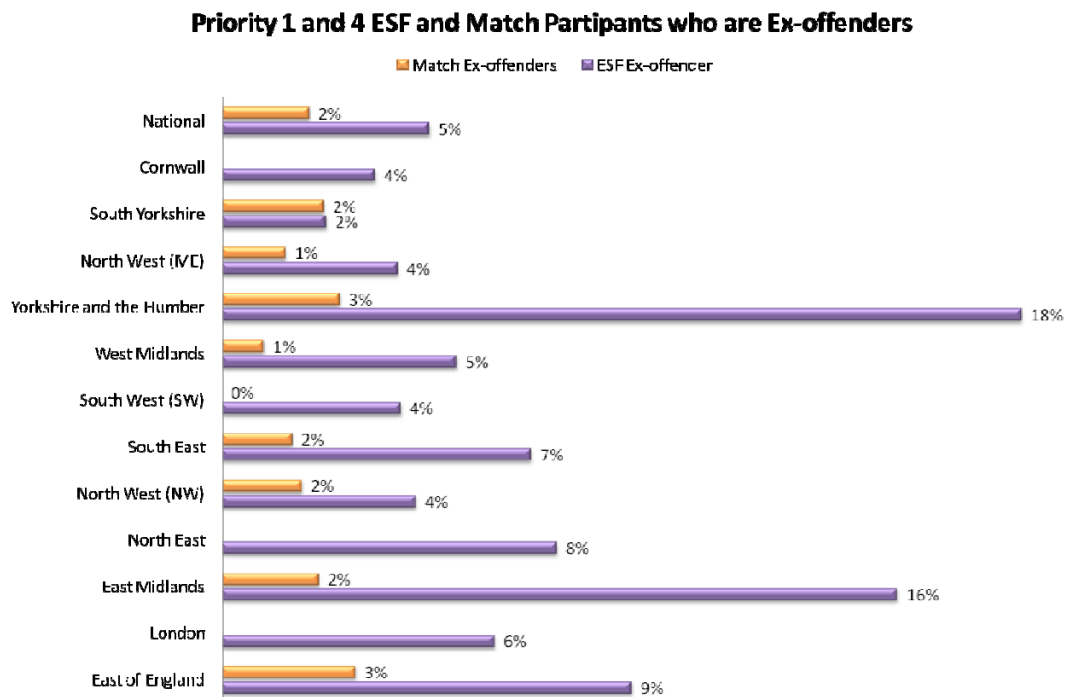
Source: European Social Fund Cohort Survey: Wave 1 LSC Data Only
DWP/NatCen. Sample size 4,198

Learners who are Ex-offenders

- 67 There were about 8 million offenders on the Offenders Index database in December 2006³. The adult population of UK is 50m (16+). This equates to 16 per cent of the adult population. Figure 35 show the percentage of the Priority 1 and 4 sample who are ex-offenders. There is no specific target for ex-offenders in the CFO Plans and this information is not collected on the ILR. Figure 35 illustrates a significant variance between the regions.
- 68 Figure 35 also shows considerably higher percentages of ex-offenders for ESF participants compared to match. Even though there is mainstream funding through the Agency for ex-offenders through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS); and thus potential match, very little is actually used as match due to data protection for participants leading to the lack of transparent audit trail to comply with EC regulations.

³ 32 David Hanson (Minister of State, Ministry of Justice; Delyn, Labour) 2008

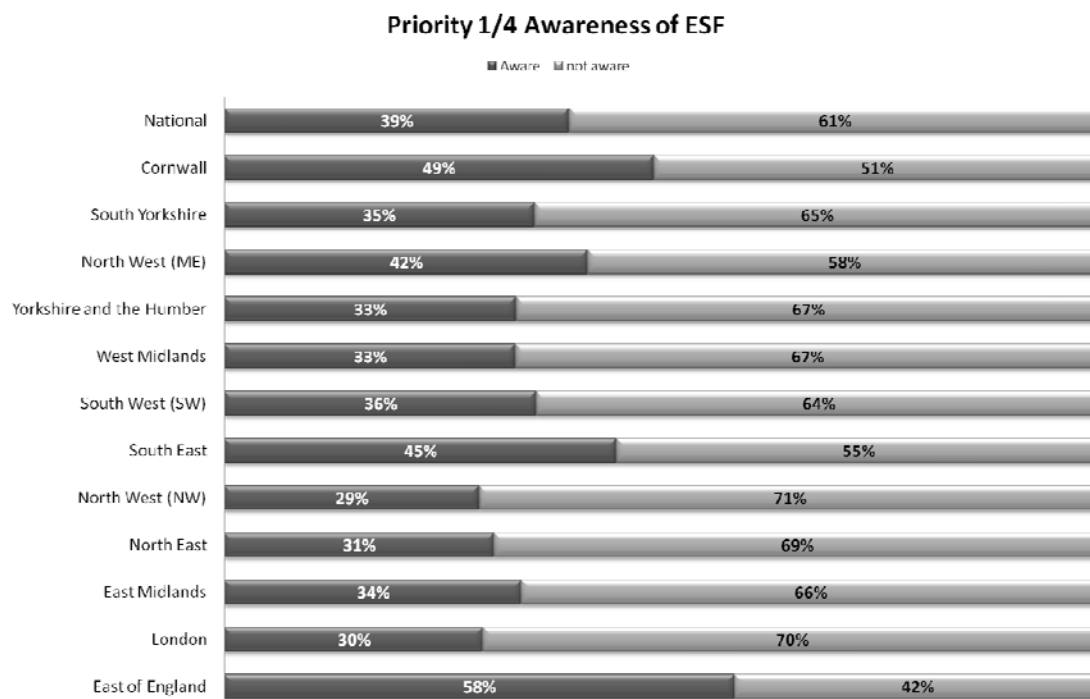
Figure 35: ESF and Match Participants Surveyed who are Ex-offenders



Awareness off European Funding

69 All ESF and Match funded provision follows the ESF publicity guidance. The awareness of European Union funding, from the Cohort Study, is at 39 per cent nationally and varies from 29 per cent in the North West to 58 per cent in the East of England.

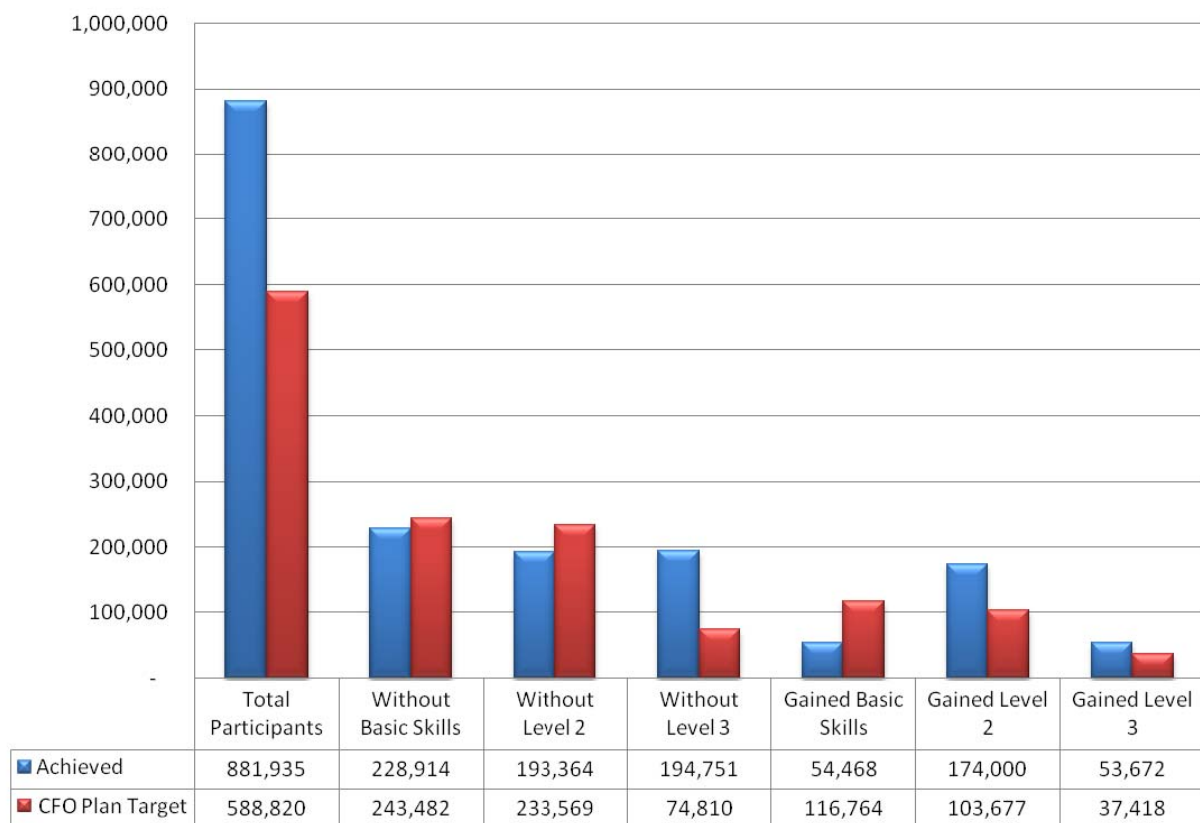
Figure 36: Awareness of European Funding for Participants Surveyed



Priority 2&5 Outputs

Overall Participant Numbers

Figure 37:



70 Overall participation on the ESF Programme in Priorities 2 and 5 is higher than expected. Success against targets for outputs and results is:

71 Outputs

- Total participants, exceeded by 50 per cent.
- The number of participants with Basic Skills Needs is at 94 per cent of target
- The number of participants without Level 2 qualifications is at 83 per cent of the target.
- The number of participants without a Level 3 qualification is more than double the target.

Results

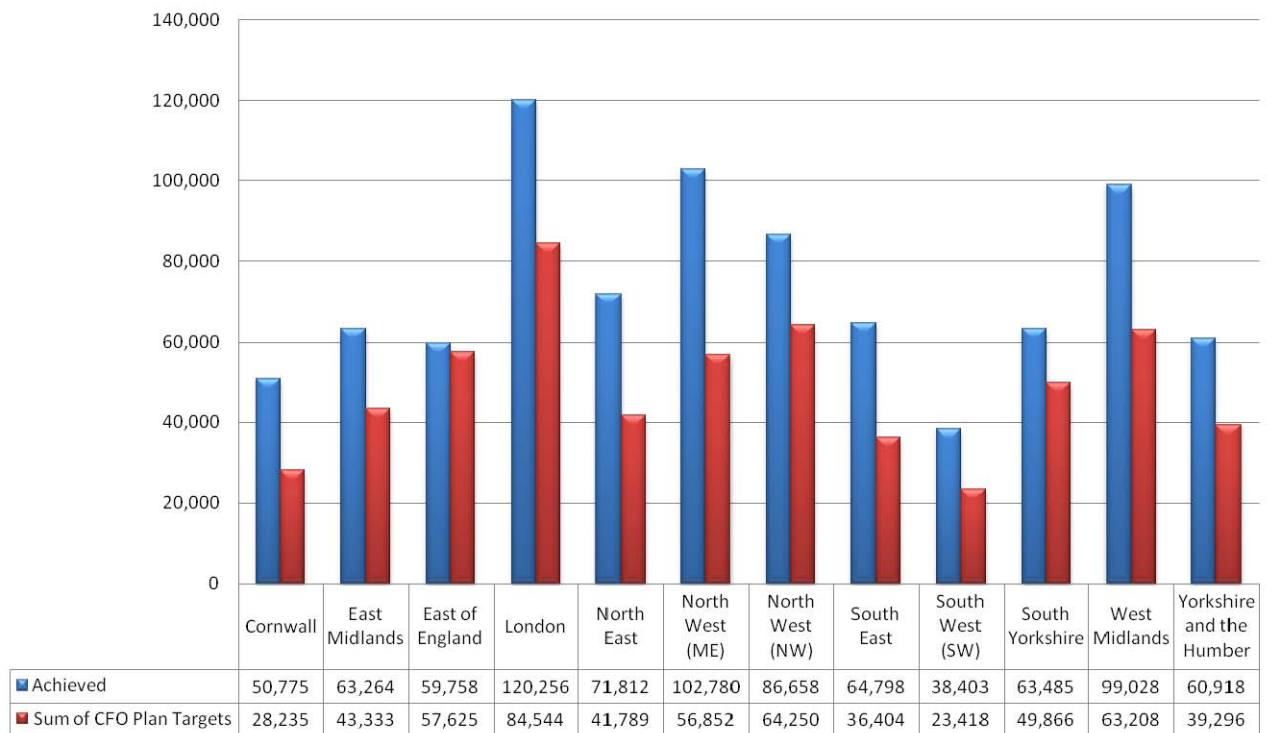
- The number of participants who gained basic skills is 47% of the target.
- The number of participants who gained Level 2 is 68% above the target.
- The number of participants who gained Level 3 is 43% above the target.

Learners Funded by Both ESF and Match

72 Under Priorities 2 and 5 the Agency ran a Response to Redundancy Programme where learners were funded 50/50 by ESF and match. These participants are counted as ESF in the following data charts for the percentage calculations as the data from November 2010 the ESF 50 per

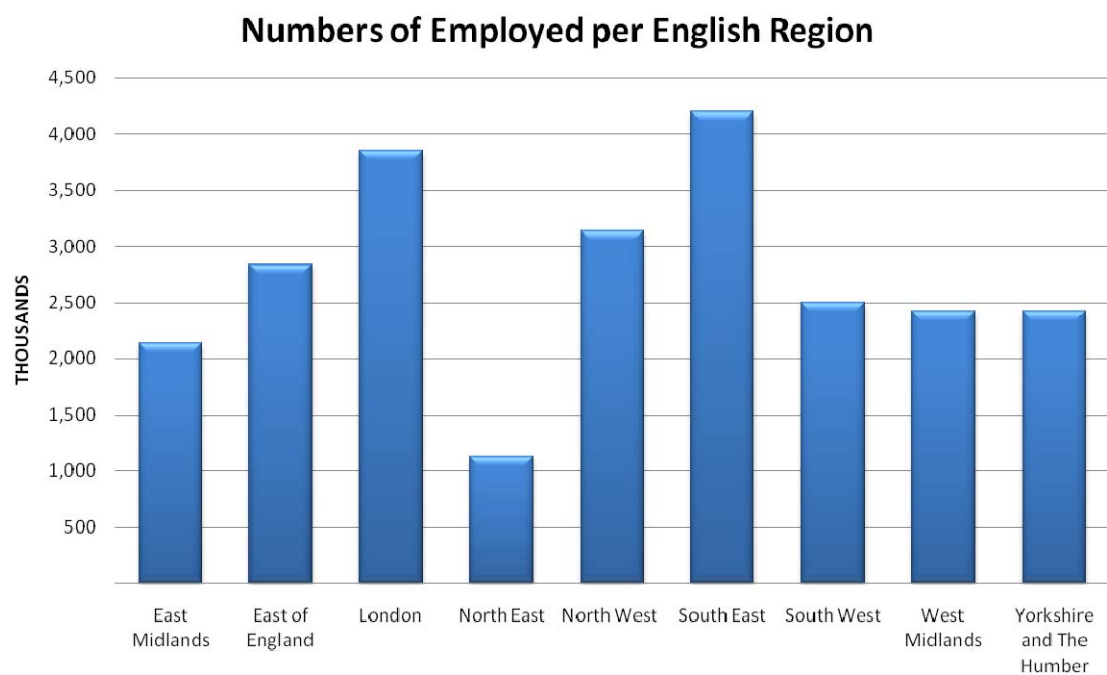
cent funding had yet to be reached. In the numbers of participants charts those participants funded on both ESF and match funding are colour coded for ESF as it is at ESF provision distinct from Agency mainstream funding.

Figure 38: Programme Outputs and Results for Priorities 2 and 5



73 Figure 39 shows the current levels of employment in each English region. This is not a baseline against which the targets or achievements are to be measured against. However, it is useful for comparison and to allow a judgement to be made over how challenging some targets are in the current environment.

Figure 39: Employment in the English Regions

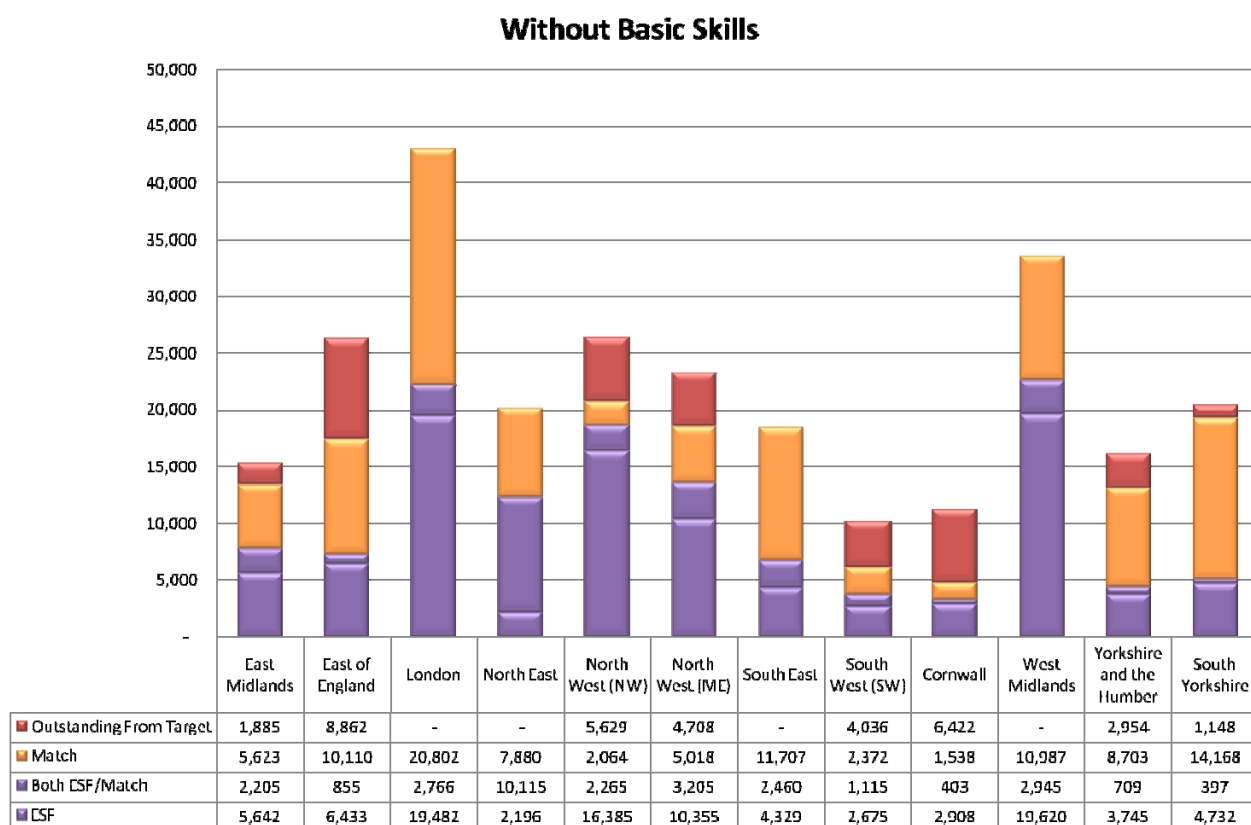


Source: Headline estimates for January to March 2011 Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Basic Skills Needs

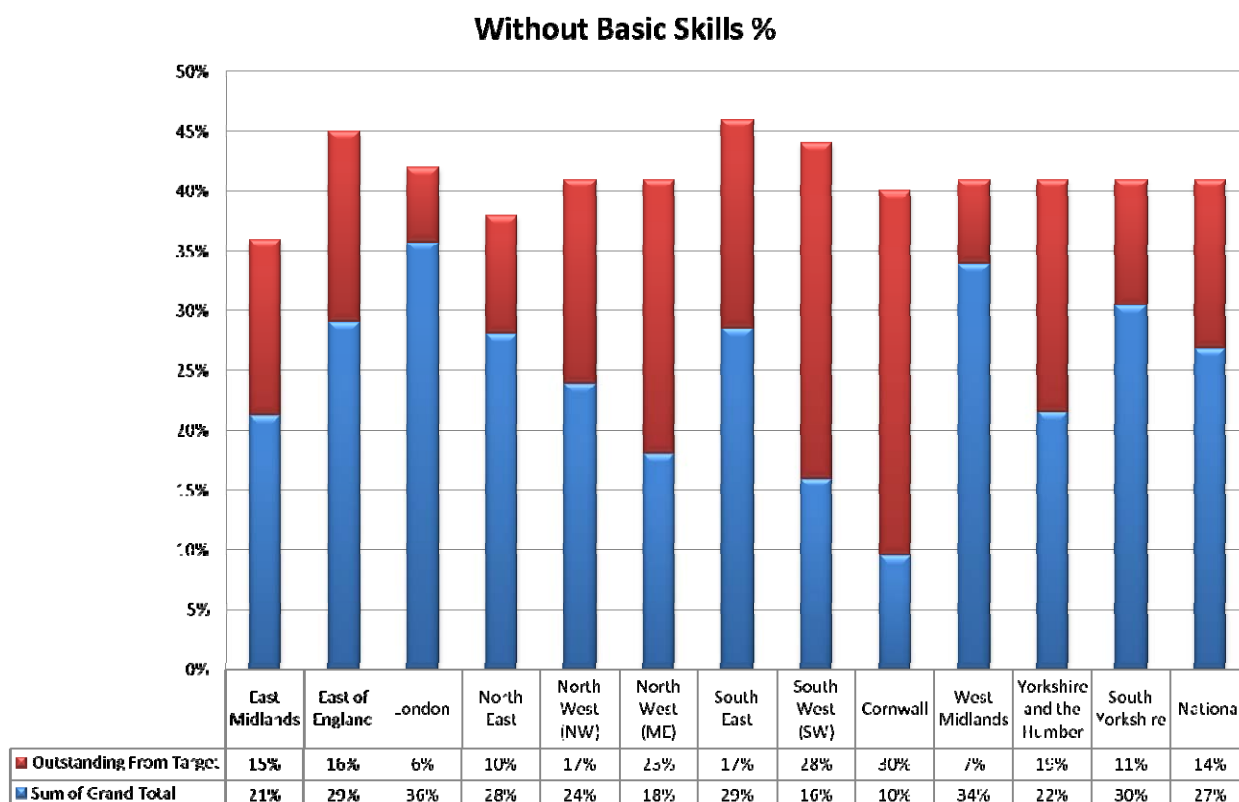
- 74 Figure 40 shows the number of participants who started with a highest qualification of none. This is used as the measure for a basic skills need. The target in terms of numbers has been achieved in London, North East, South East, West Midlands and nearly met in South Yorkshire. East Midlands region and Yorkshire and The Humber are just short of the target. There is shortfall from the target in East of England, North West, Merseyside, South West and Cornwall.

Figure 40: Participants with Basic Skills Needs by Region



- 75 Figure 41 shows the percentage of participants with basic skills needs. As the overall number of participants increases, the percentage of participants with a basic skills need becomes more challenging. Also the management information definition for basic skills needs can only include participants with no previous qualifications. The target group is people who do not have a *relevant* qualification at any level. In other words the target group would include people who have previous qualifications, but require basics skills in, for example, the English language.

Figure 42: Percentage of Participants without Basics Skills



- 76 Figure 43 shows the numbers of participants without a Level 2 qualification but excluding those with no qualifications. It is a count of the participants who have a qualification below Level 1 or at Level 1 or equivalent. As with the basic skills qualification the management information can only measure the qualification held and cannot identify whether a participant has a *relevant* qualification. Participant in work and requiring skills and qualification at Level 2 would still be eligible for ESF training if the previous qualification was not relevant.
- 77 There is a variation across the regions as to where the numerical value has been met. Figure 43(a) shows the position in February 2011. It has been included because there has been a significant improvement since November 2010.

Figure 43: Numbers of Participants without a Level 2 Qualification

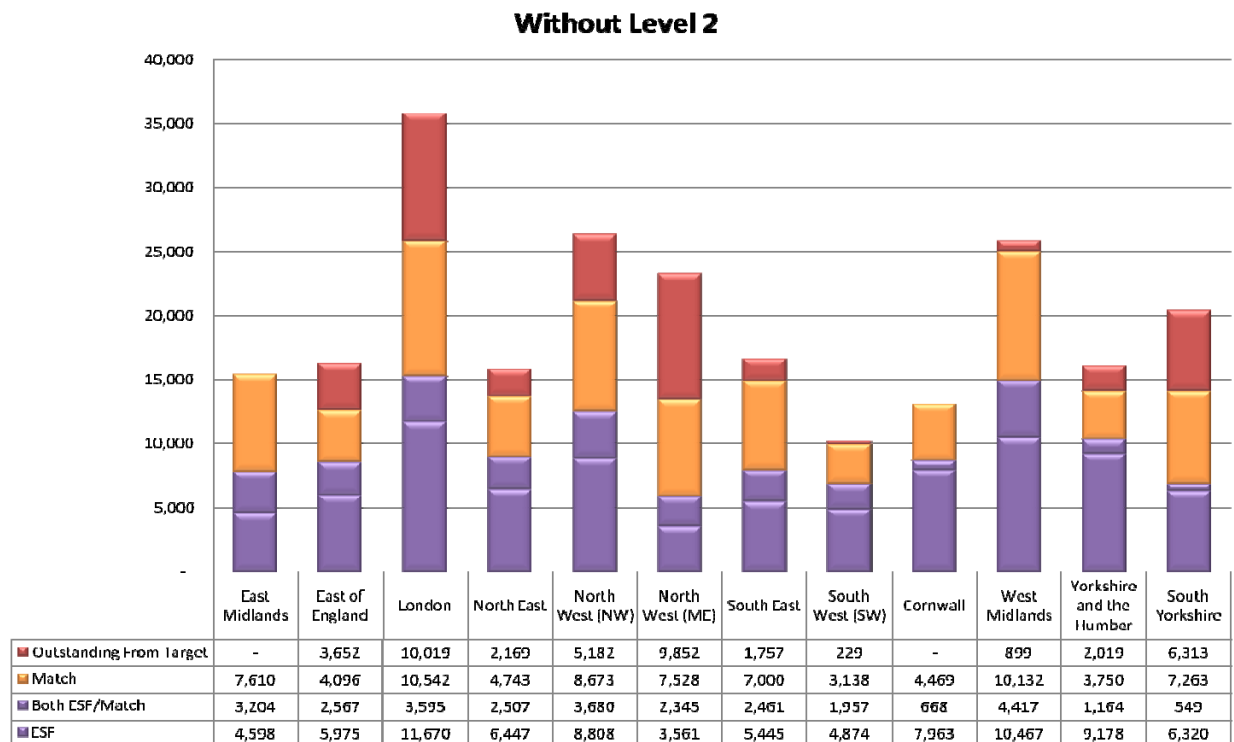
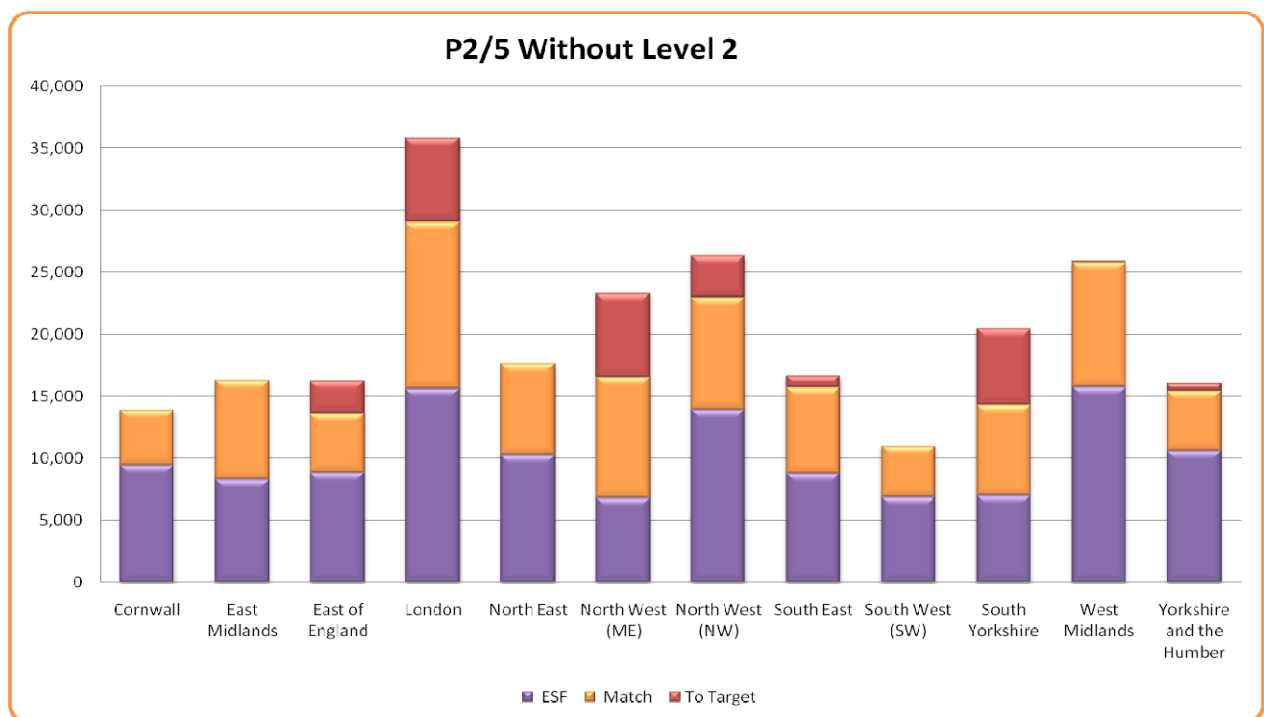


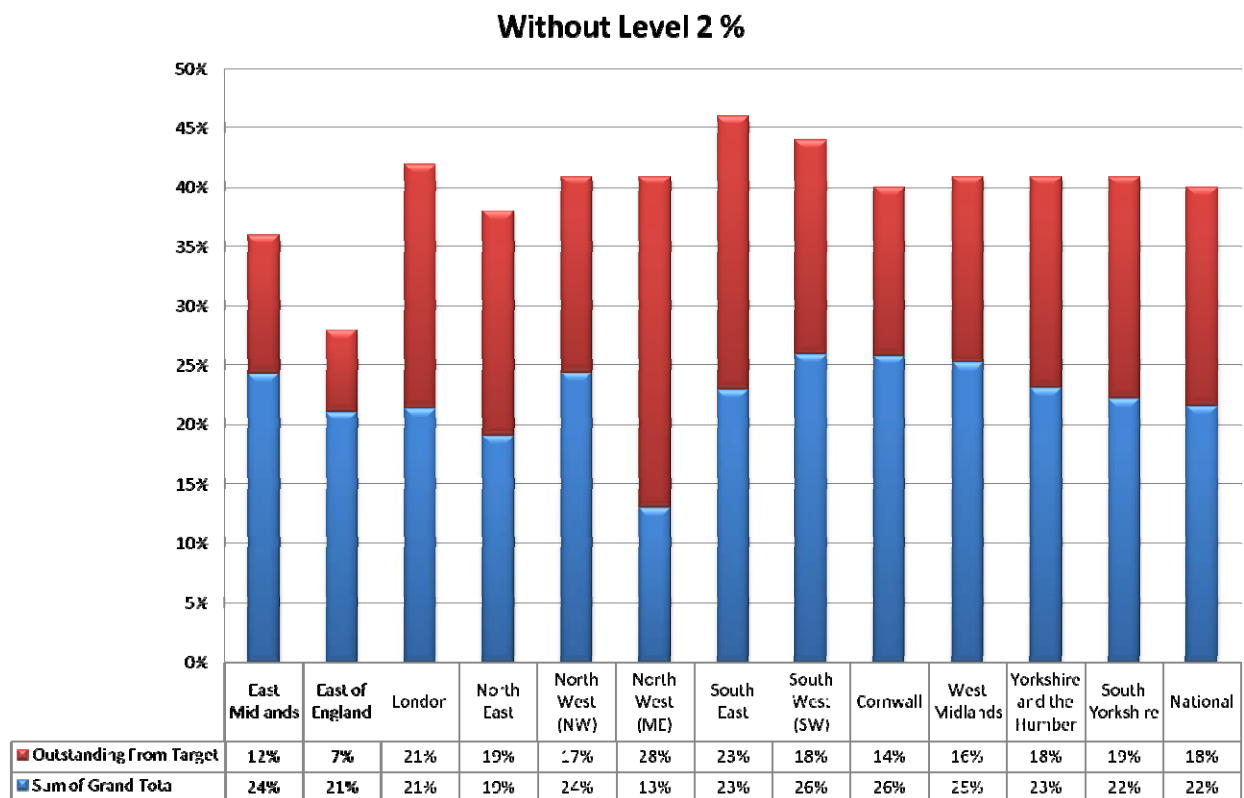
Figure 43(a): Numbers of Participants without a Level 2 at February 2011



78 From figure 43(a) it can be seen that the target has been met or nearly met in all the regions except London, North West, Merseyside and South Yorkshire.

79 Figure 44 shows the proportion of ESF participants without a Level 2. This has not been met in any region. There is the recurrent problem that as the

overall participation number increases the percentage target becomes more challenging.



80 Figure 45 show the numbers of participant without a Level 3 qualification.
The target has been exceeded in every region.

Figure 45: Numbers of Participants without a Level 3 Qualification by Region

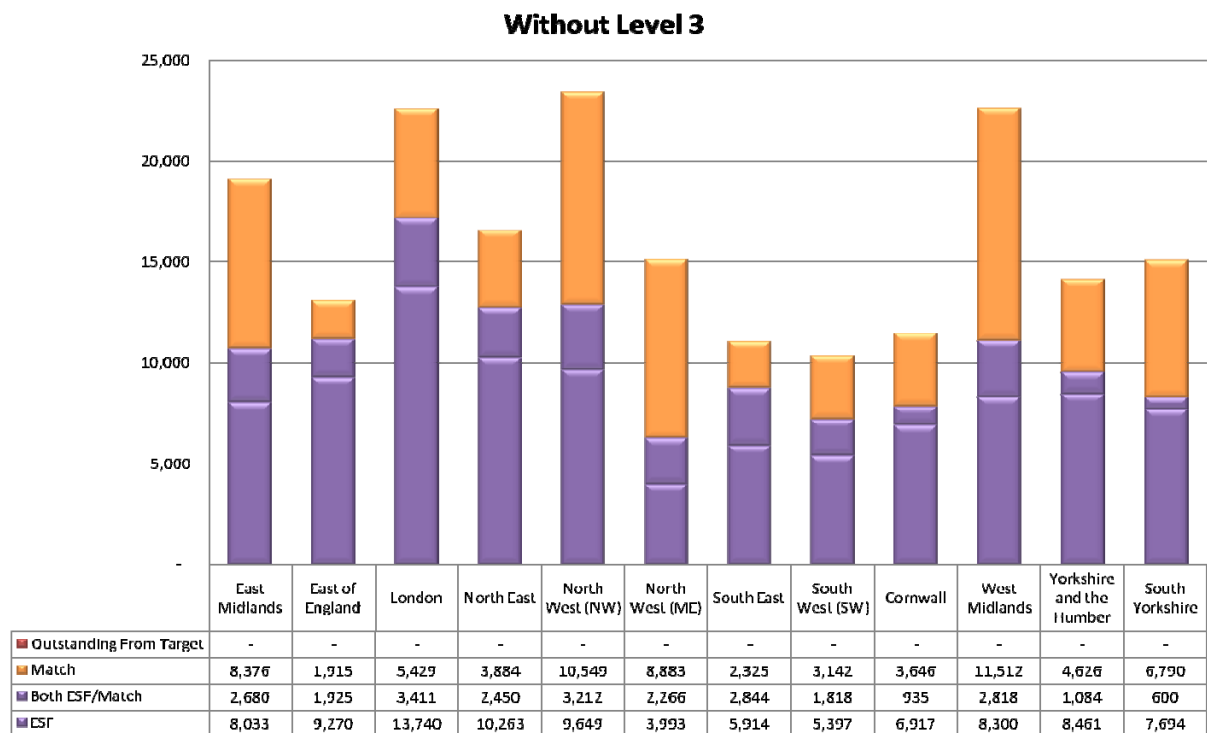
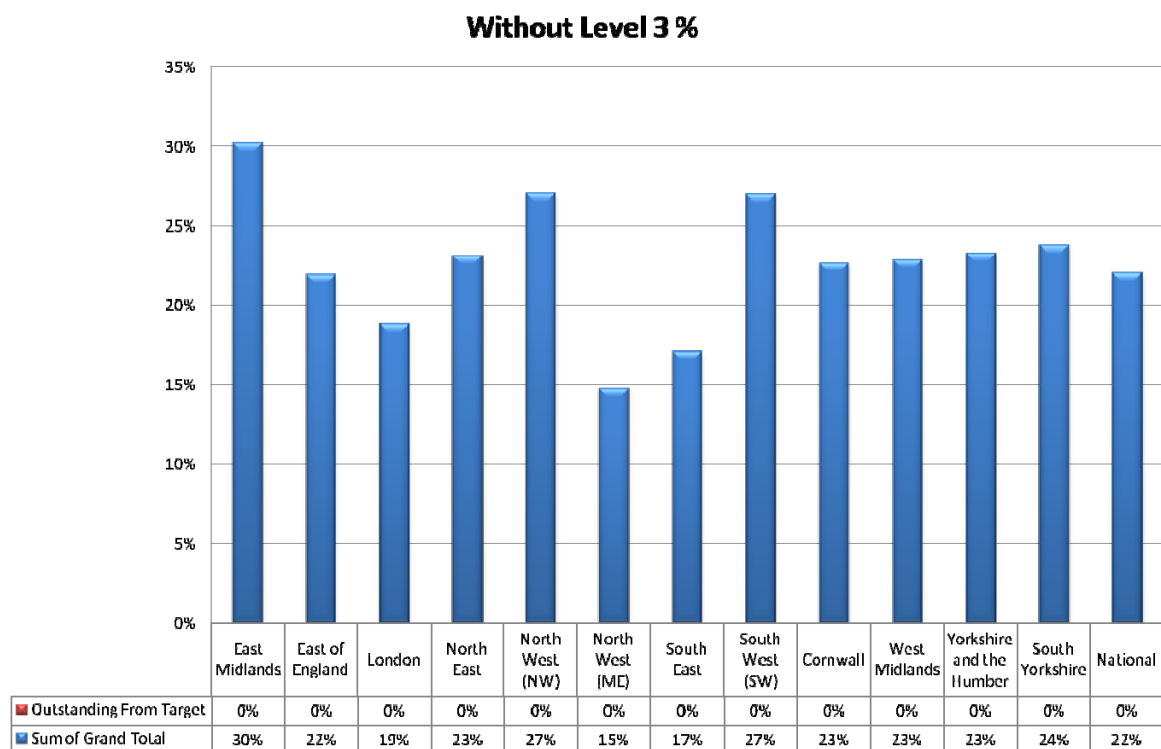


Figure 46: Percentage of Participants without a Level 3 Qualification at Start



Figures 47 and 48 show the numbers and percentage of participants without a Level 4 qualification for Priority 5 in Cornwall. The target has been exceeded.

Figure 47: Participants in Cornwall Without a Level 4

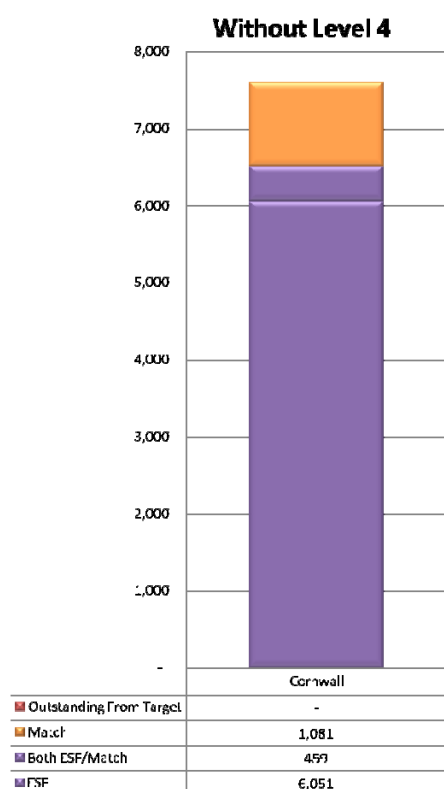
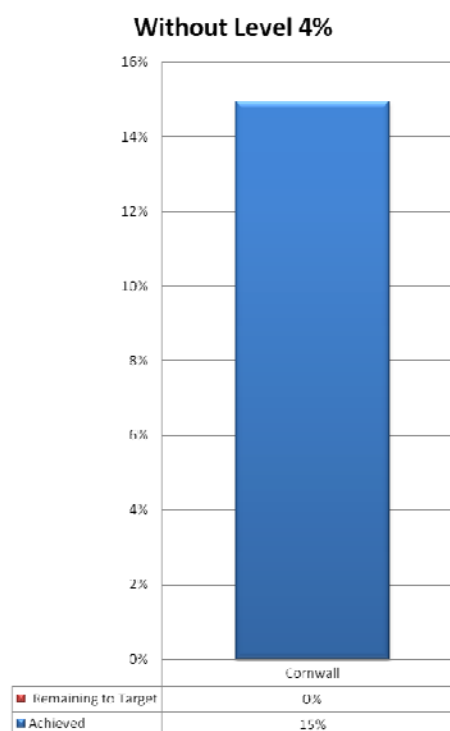


Figure 48: Percentage of Participants in Cornwall Without a Level 4

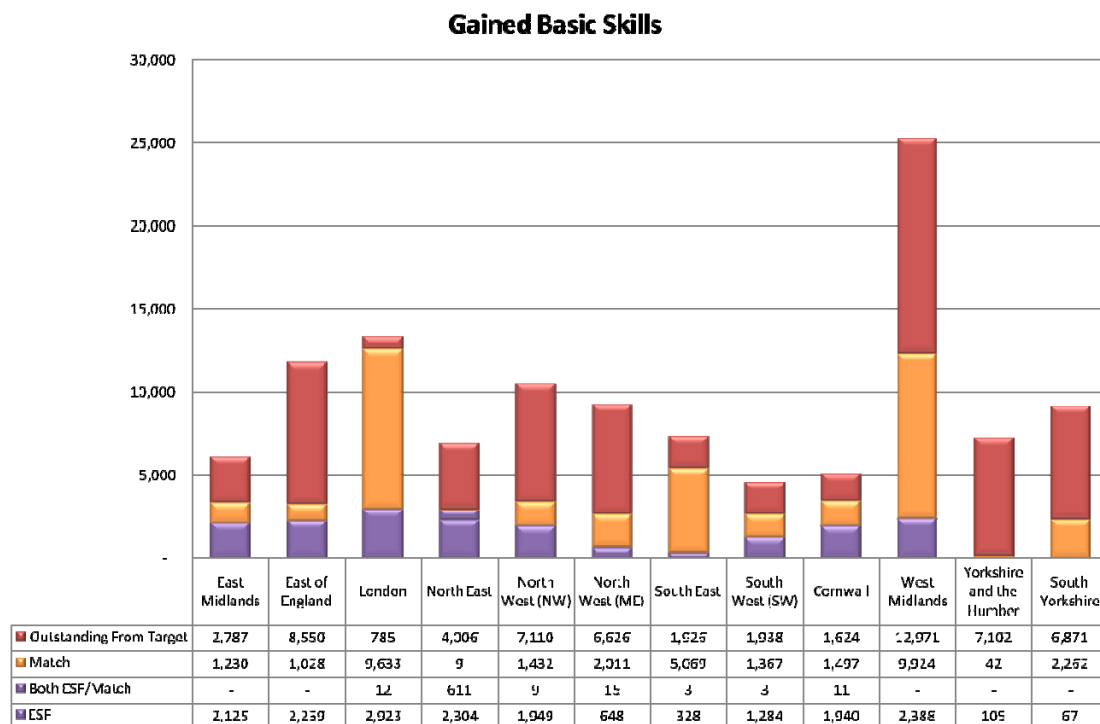


Priority 1 and 4 Results

Skills Gained

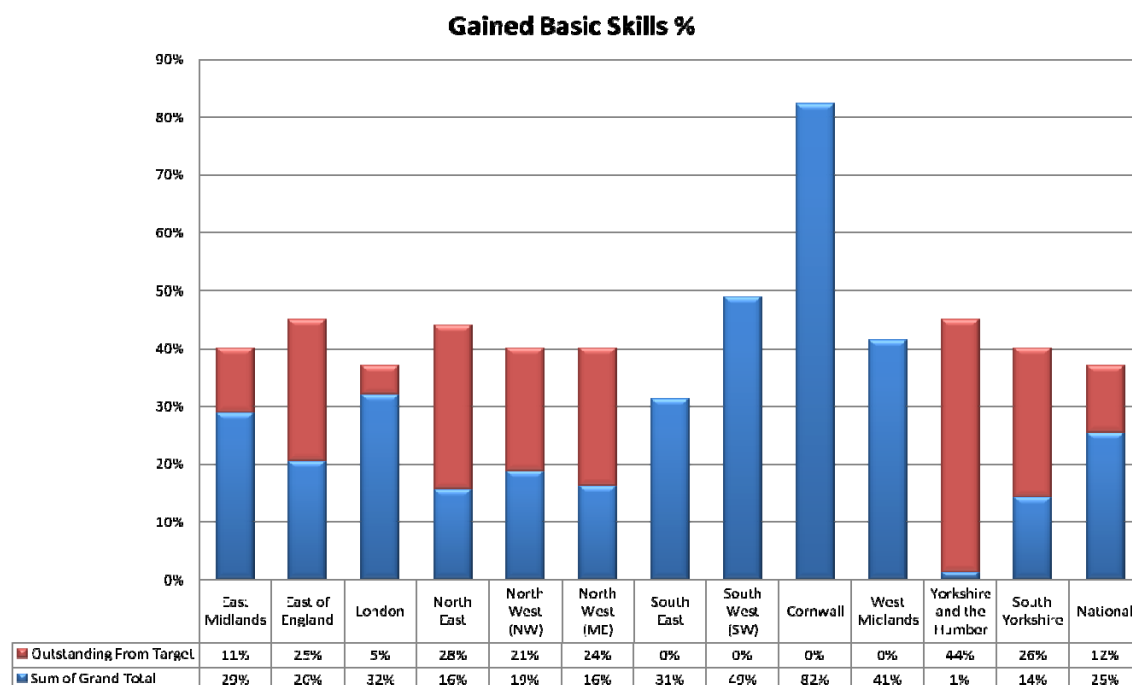
- 81 Figure 49 shows the breakdown per region of basic skills gained. There is a significant variation across the regions, with London region approaching the target, but all other regions being some distance from achieving the target in terms of numbers.

Figure 49: Basis Skills Gained by Region



82 Figure 50: Shows the percentage of participants who gained a basic skills qualification when their starting point was no qualifications. This shows that four regions have reached the targets and more are closer to the target than the total numbers.

Figure 50: Percentage of Basic Skills Gained



- 83 Figure 51: Shows the numbers of participants who have gained a Level 2 qualification. This target has been exceeded in every region except the West Midlands. The percentage target, however, has been reached in all regions.

Figure 51: Numbers of Participants who Gained Level 2 by Region

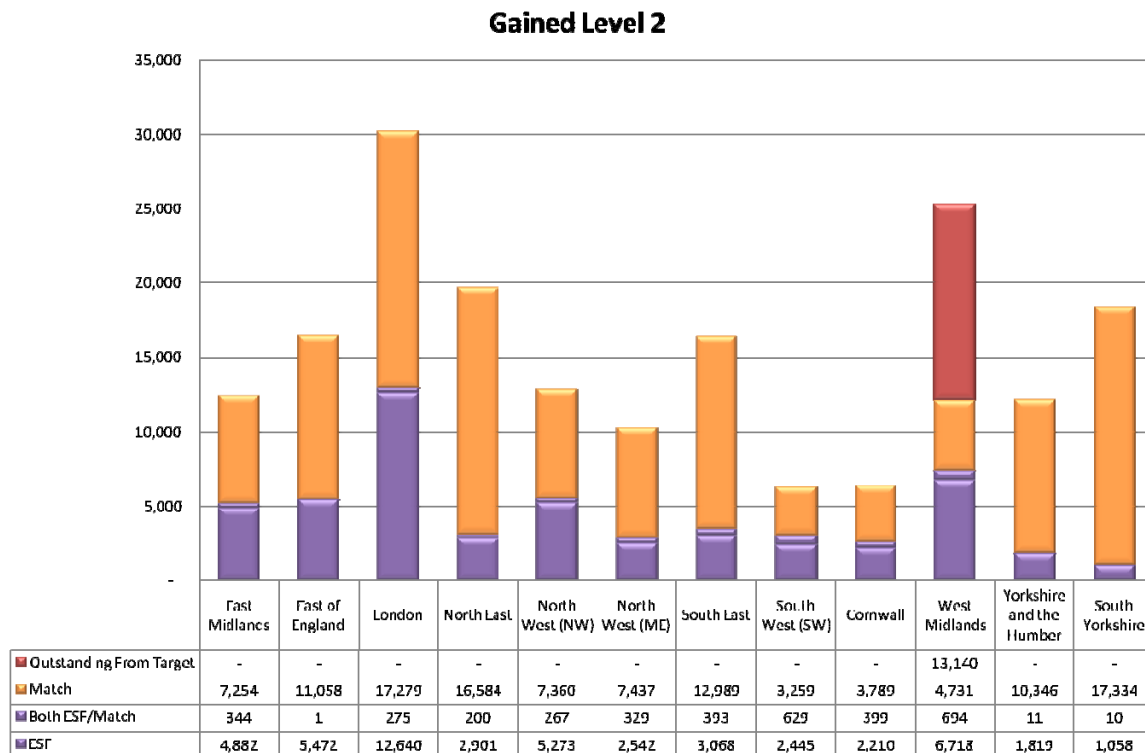
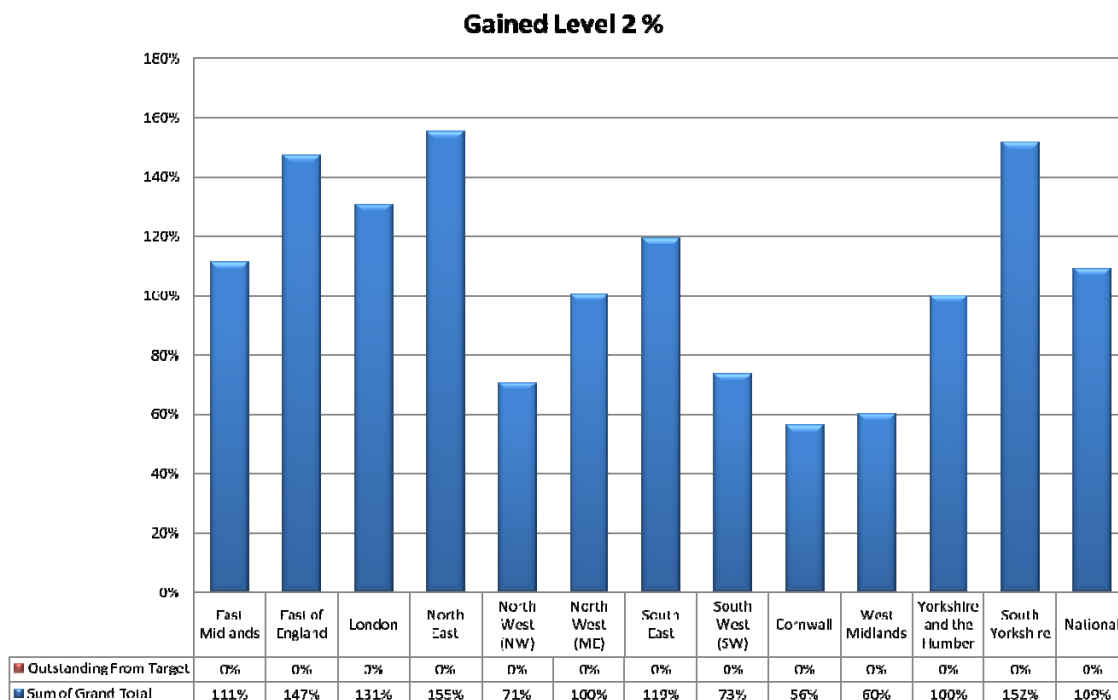


Figure 52: Percentage of Participants who Gained Level 2



- 84 Figure 53 shows the number of participants who have gained a Level 3 qualification. This target has been exceeded in each region except for the

West Midlands. Figure 54 shows the percentage target and this has been exceeded in every region except the West Midlands, where it is very close and the North East and South Yorkshire where it is close.

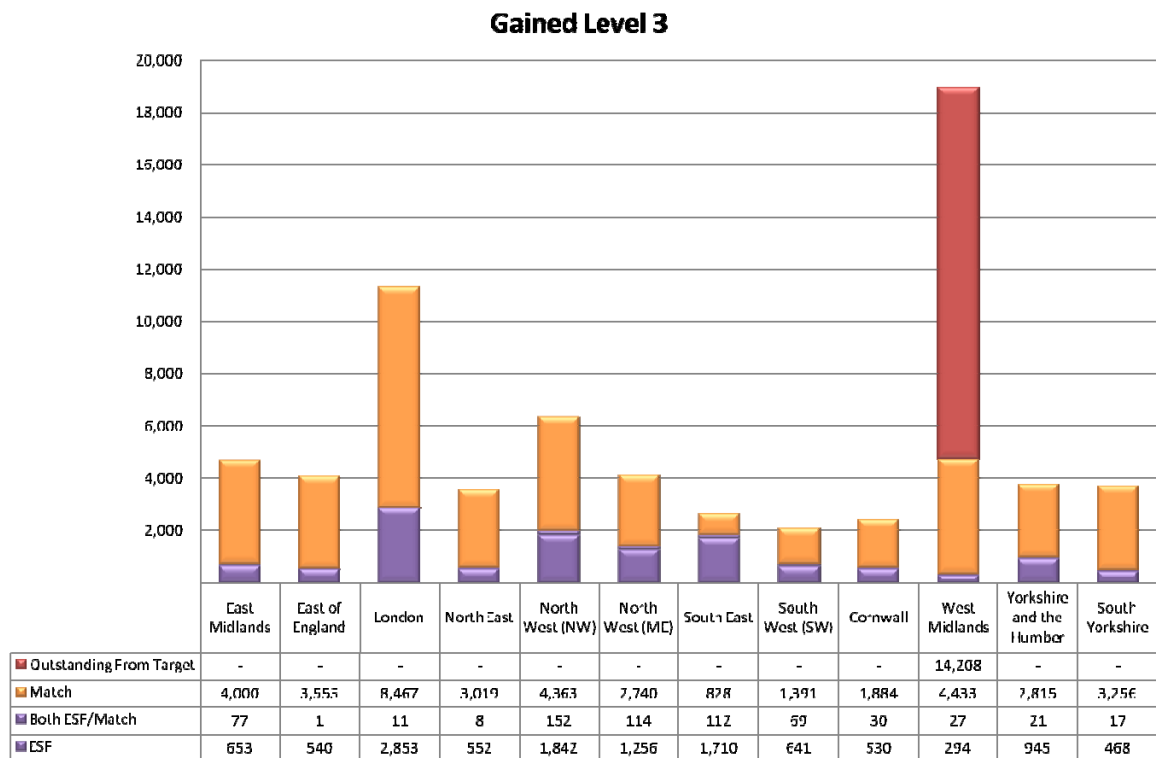
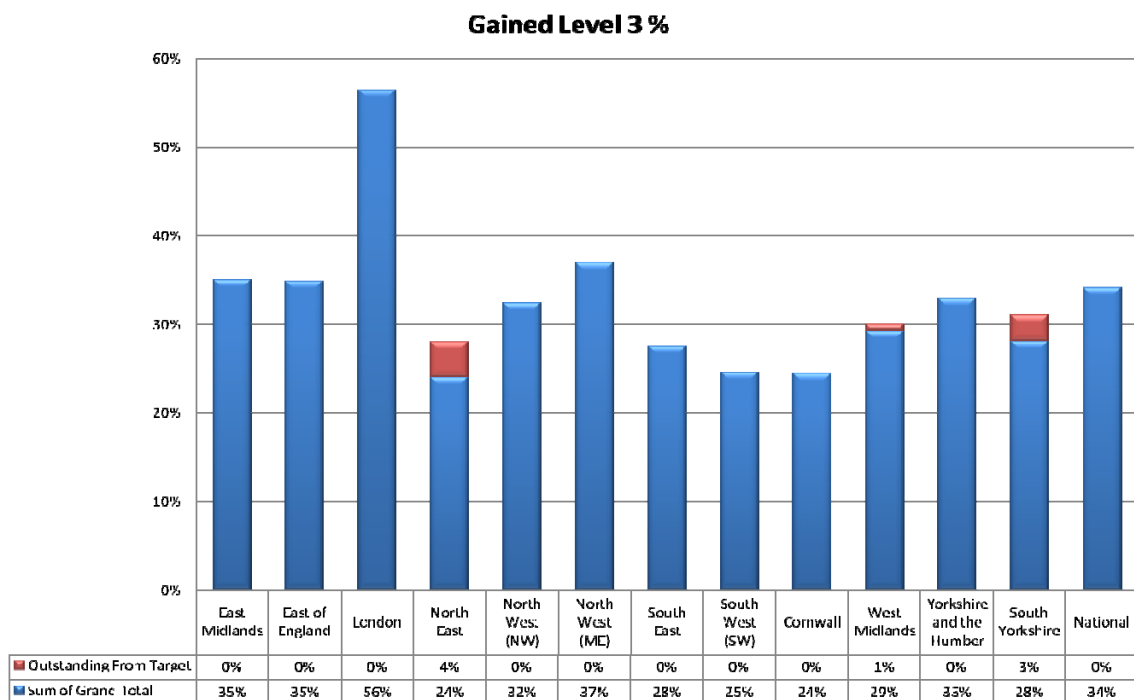


Figure 54: Percentage of Participants who Gained Level 3



85 Figure 55 and 56 show the numbers and percentage of participants who have gained a Level 4 in the Priority 5 convergence area. The overall numbers are short of the target but the percentage value has been met.

Figure 55: Numbers of Participants who Gained a Level 4 in Cornwall

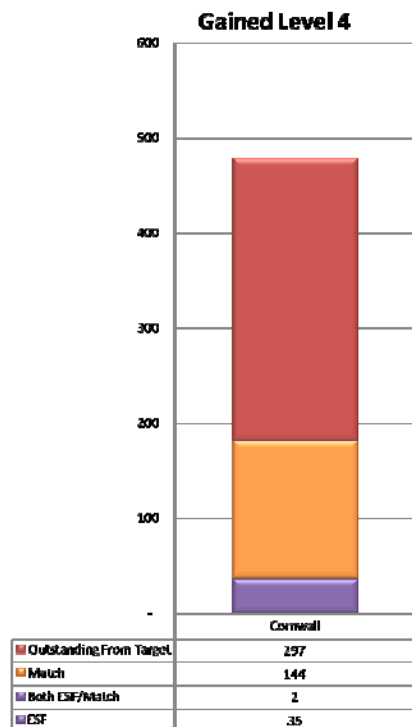
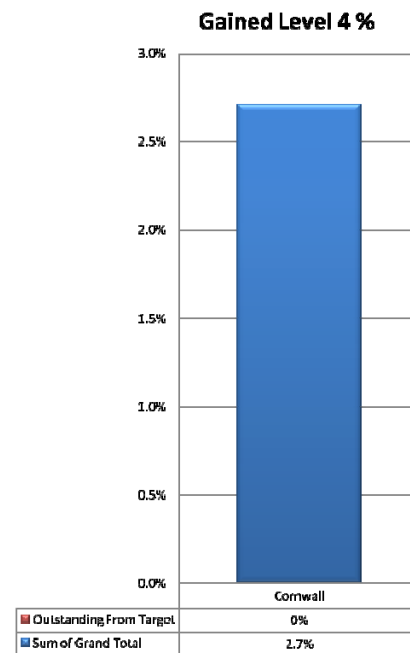


Figure 56: Percentage of Participants who Gained a Level 4 in Cornwall



- 86 Figures 57 and 58 show the overall picture participants who started with a previous qualification of none. What this shows is that over three quarter of the participants who started with a basic skills need are achieving a higher qualification than the basic skills gained. This is a positive result and it needs to be highlighted that the low numbers of basic skills gained are due to higher numbers of higher level qualifications.

Figure 57: Qualifications Gained by Learners with No Previous Qualification

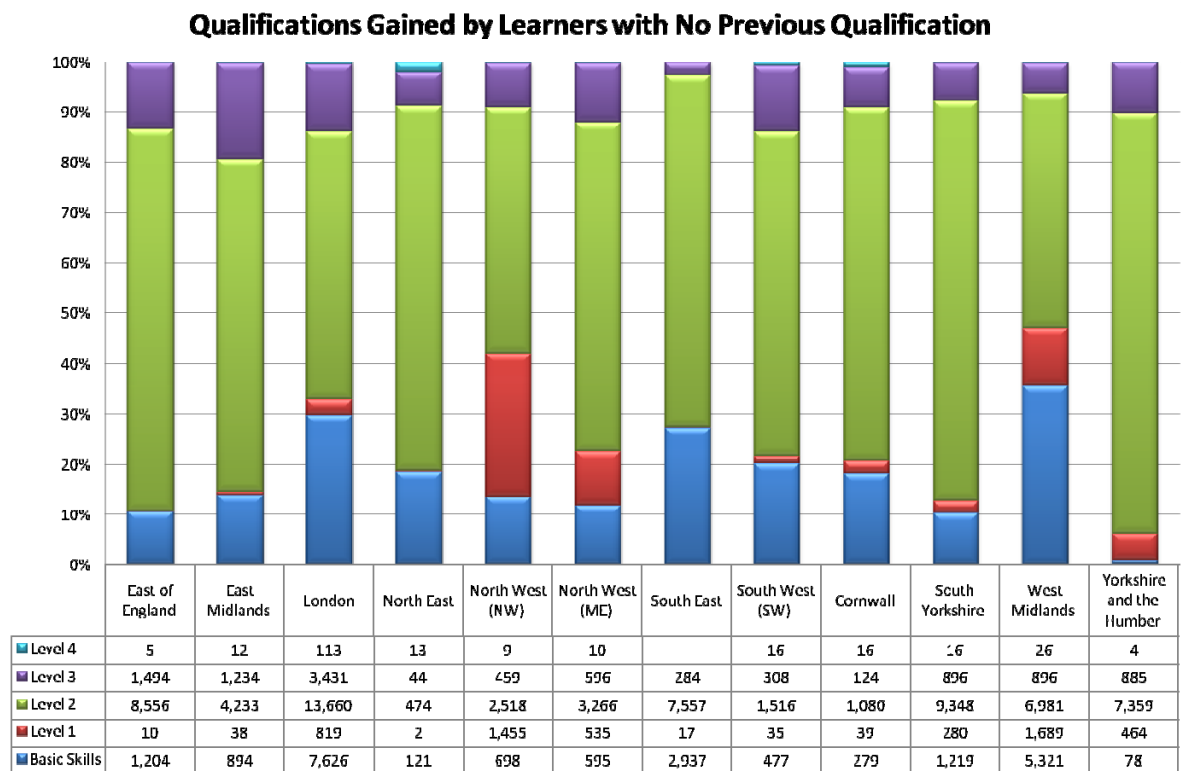
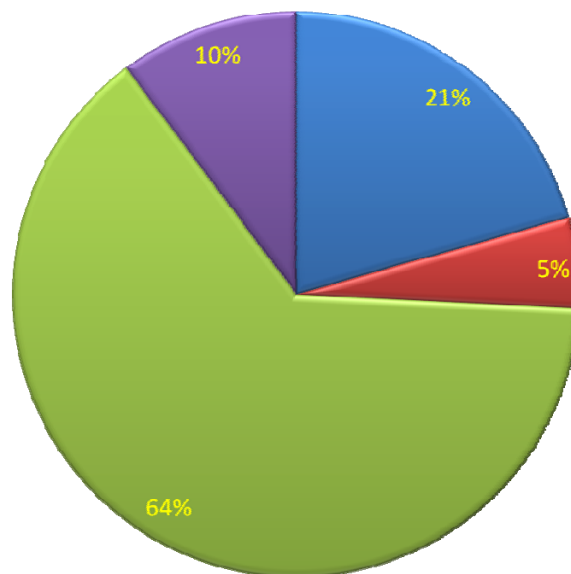


Figure 58: Proportion of Qualifications Gained by Learners with No Previous Qualification

Percentage of Qualifications Gained by Learners with No Prior Qualification

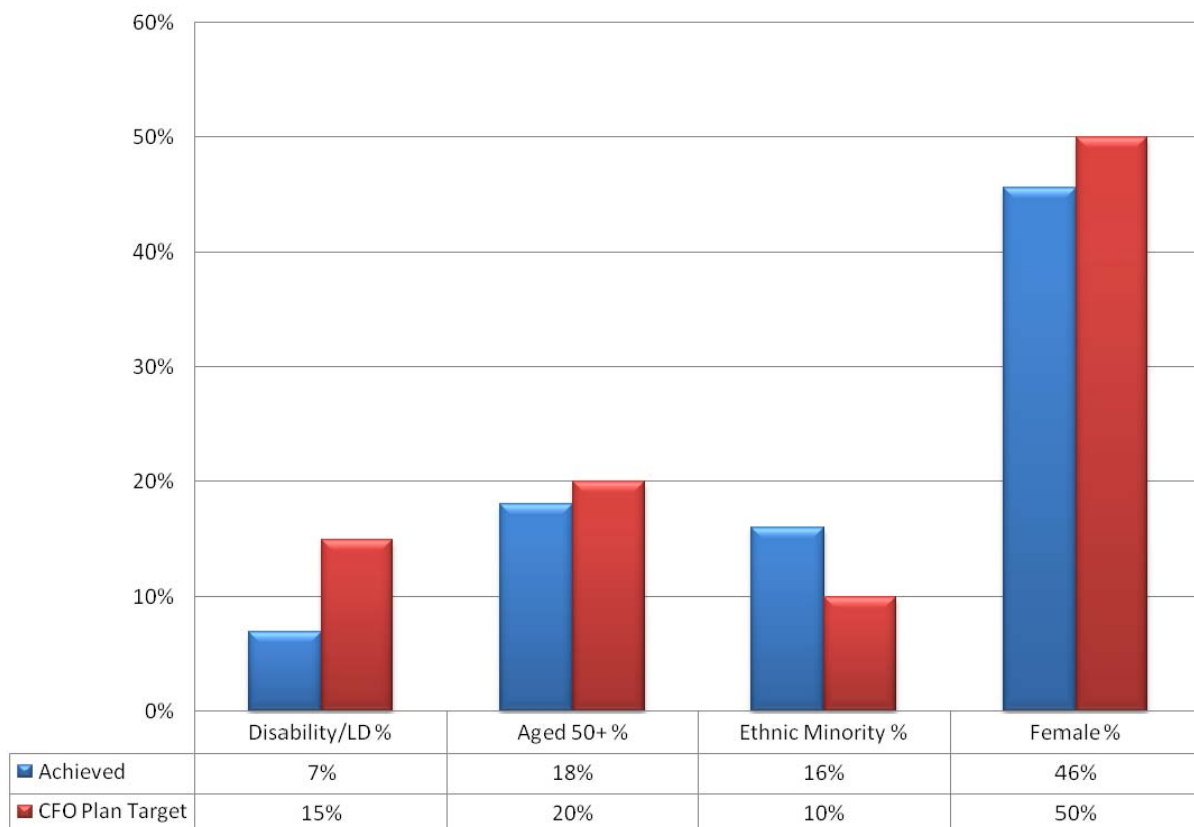
Basic Skills Level 1 Level 2 Level 3



Priority 2 and 5 Target Groups

87 Figure 59 shows the aggregated national targets for the groups to be assisted by the Programme.

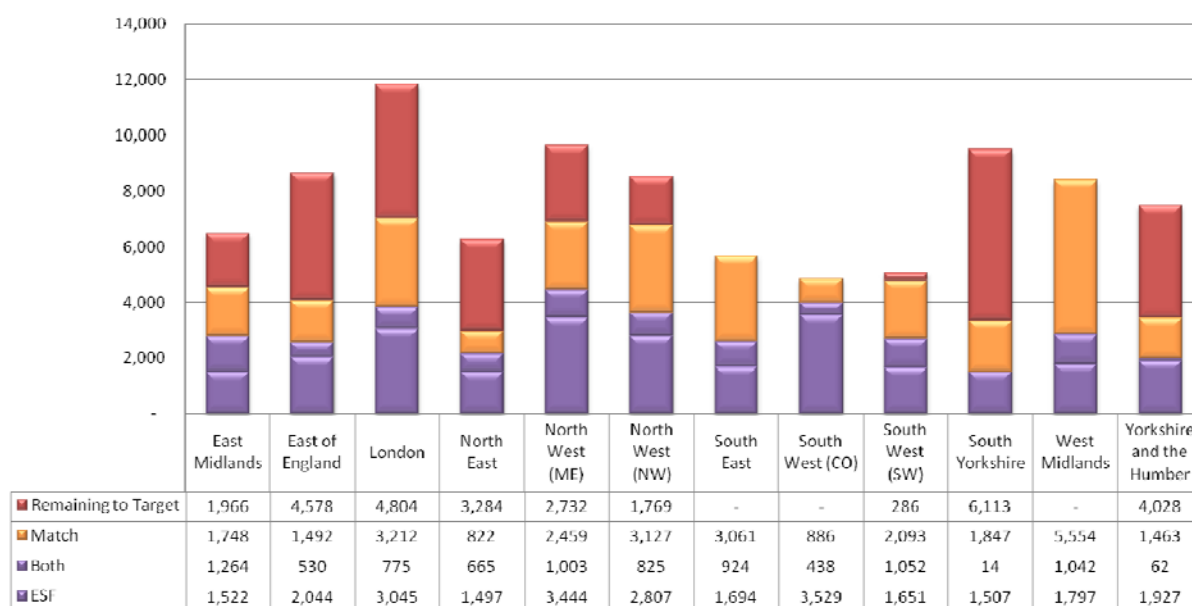
- People with a disability or learning difficulty; half the percentage target has been achieved.
- Participants aged 50+ is just 2 per cent short of the target.
- The percentage of people from an Ethnic Minority has exceeded the target.
- The percentage of female participants is 4 per cent short of the target.



Participants with Disabilities or Learning Difficulties

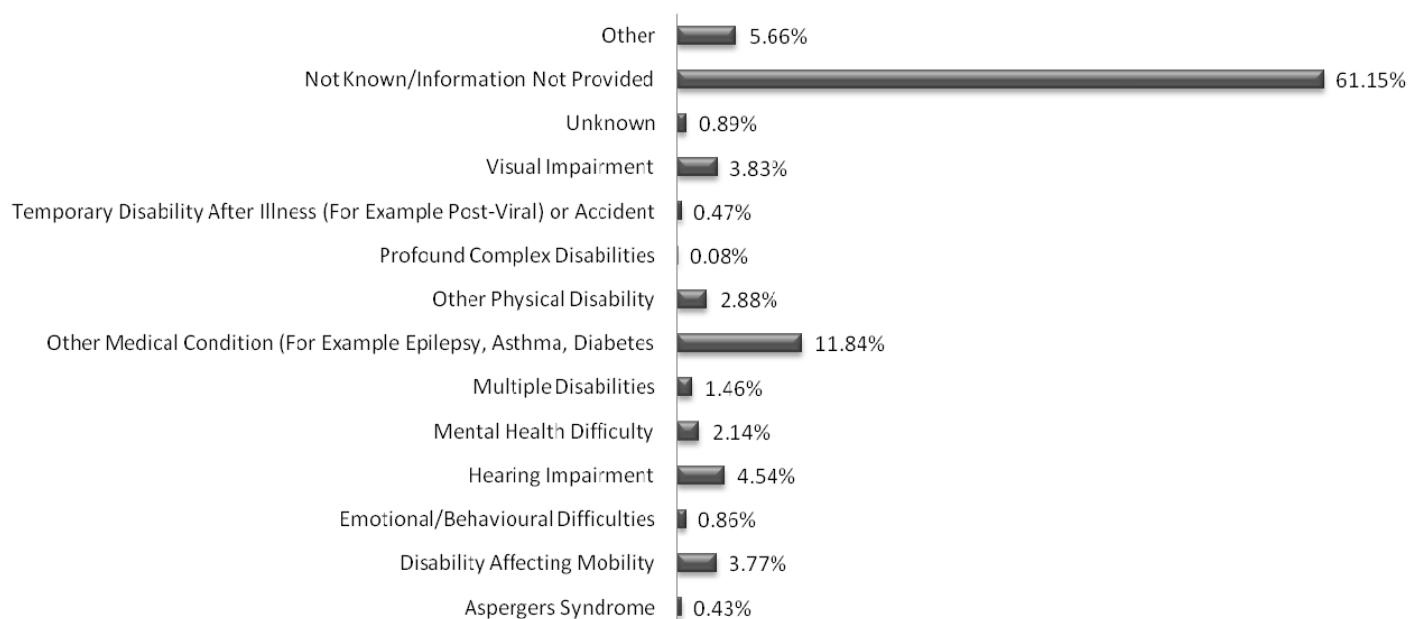
88 Figure 60 gives a breakdown by region of the numbers of people with a disability or learning difficulty. The South East, West Midlands, Cornwall and South West have all met or nearly met the target. The remaining regions are still some distance from meeting the target.

Disability/Learning Difficulty Numbers



- 89 Figure 61 gives a breakdown of the type of disability. Of the Priority 2 and 5 participants who have declared a disability or leaning difficulty over 60 per cent of the participant records have no further information provided, compared to just over 20 per cent for Priority 1 and Priority 4 participants.

Type of Disability (ESF Learners only)



Source: 54,492 ESF individual learner records May 2011, where a disability had been recorded

Participants Aged over 50

90 Figure 62 gives the regional breakdown of learners aged over 50. Most regions are meeting or nearly meeting the target. Figure 63 gives the proportion of participants nationally per adult age group. Over two thirds of participants are between 24 and 49.

Figure 62: Percentage of Participants Aged Over 50 by Region

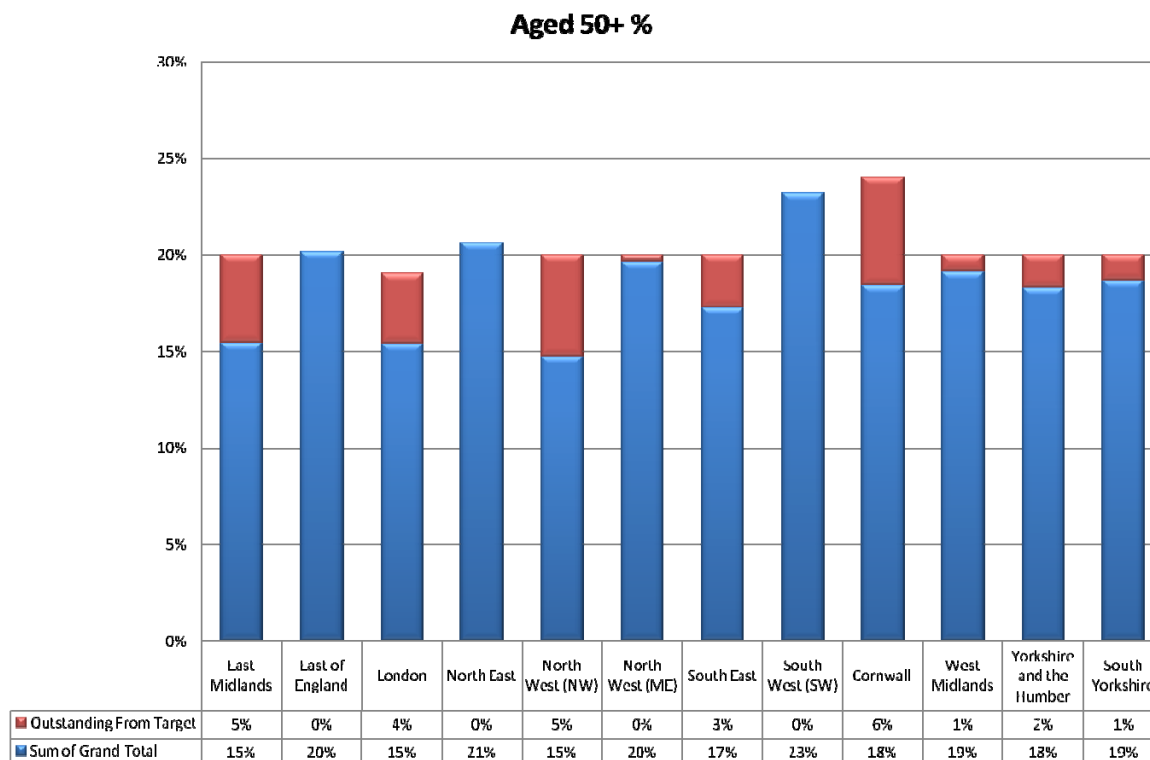
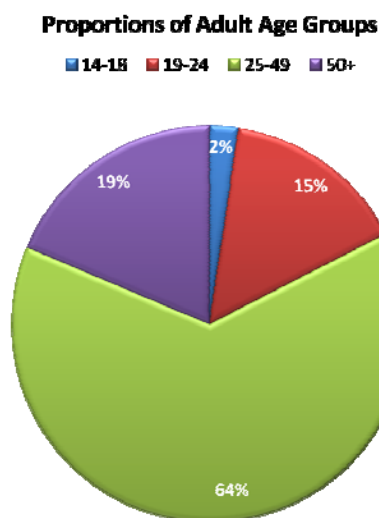


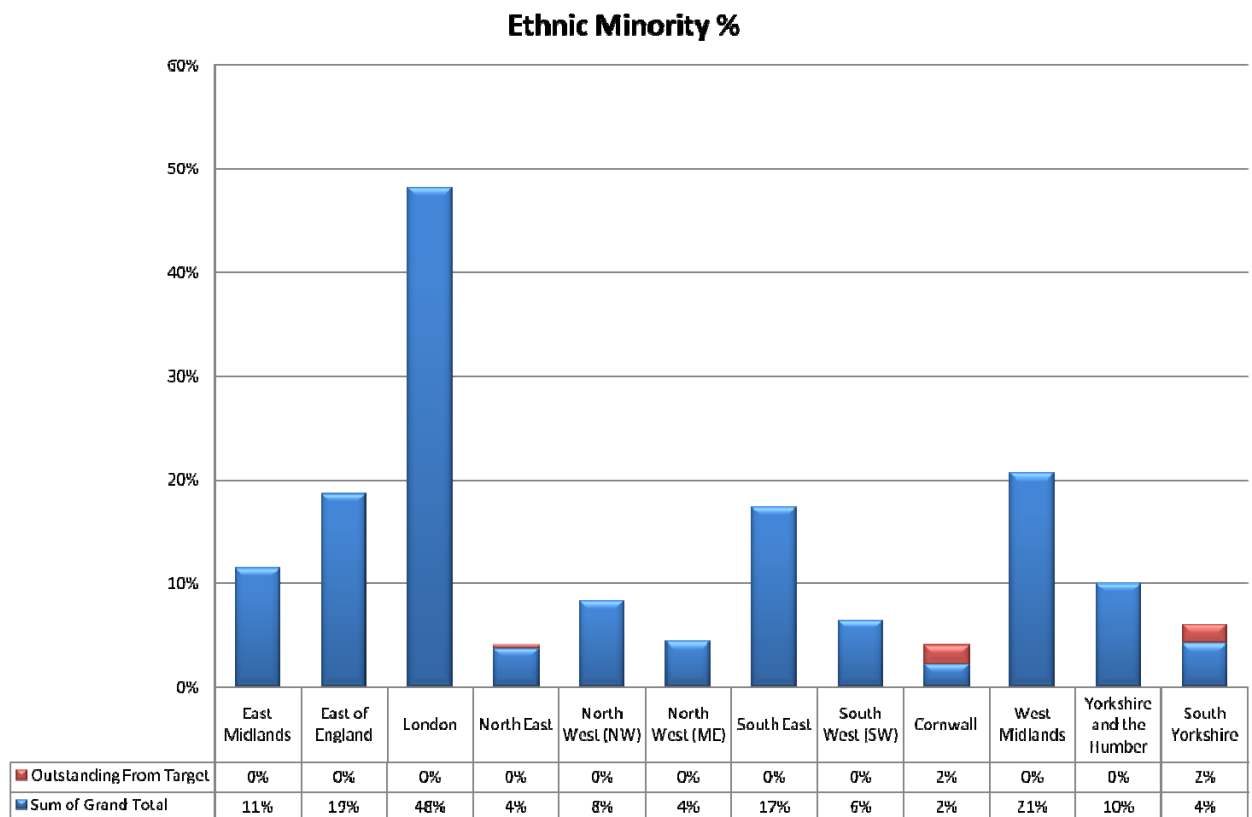
Figure 63: Proportion of Adult Age Groups



Source 546,231 ESF Participants' ILRs from Priorities 2 and 5, May 2011.

- 91 Figure 64 gives the breakdown of the percentage of participants from an ethnic minority by region. The target had been met or exceeded in every region apart from Cornwall and South Yorkshire.

Figure 64: Percentage Participants from an Ethnic Minority by Region



- 92 Figure 65 is a national breakdown of the particular ethnic group with a comparison to the national average.

Figure 65 Priority 2 Participants by Ethnic Origin

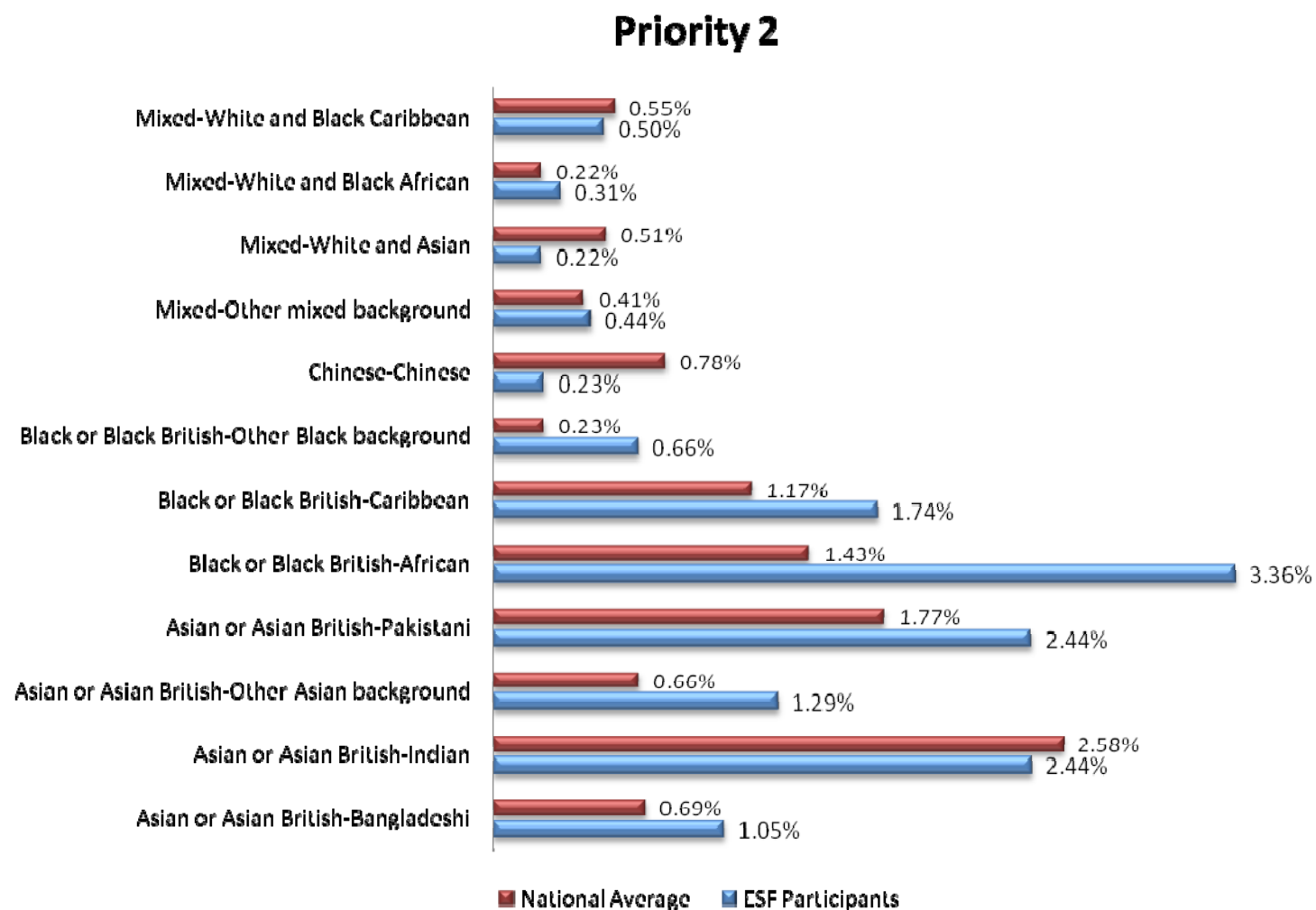
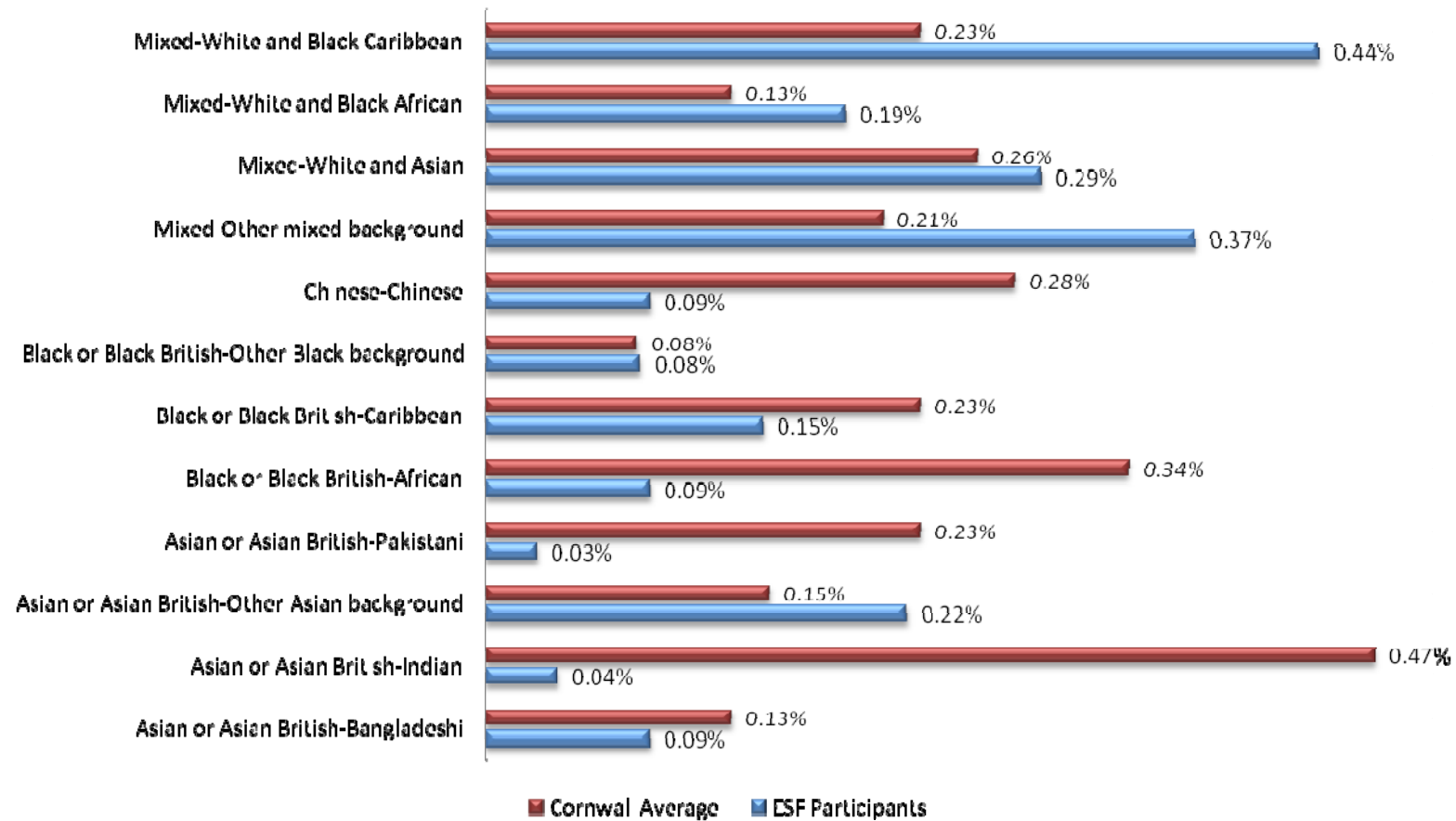


Figure 66 is the equivalent for the Priority 5 convergence area in Cornwall.

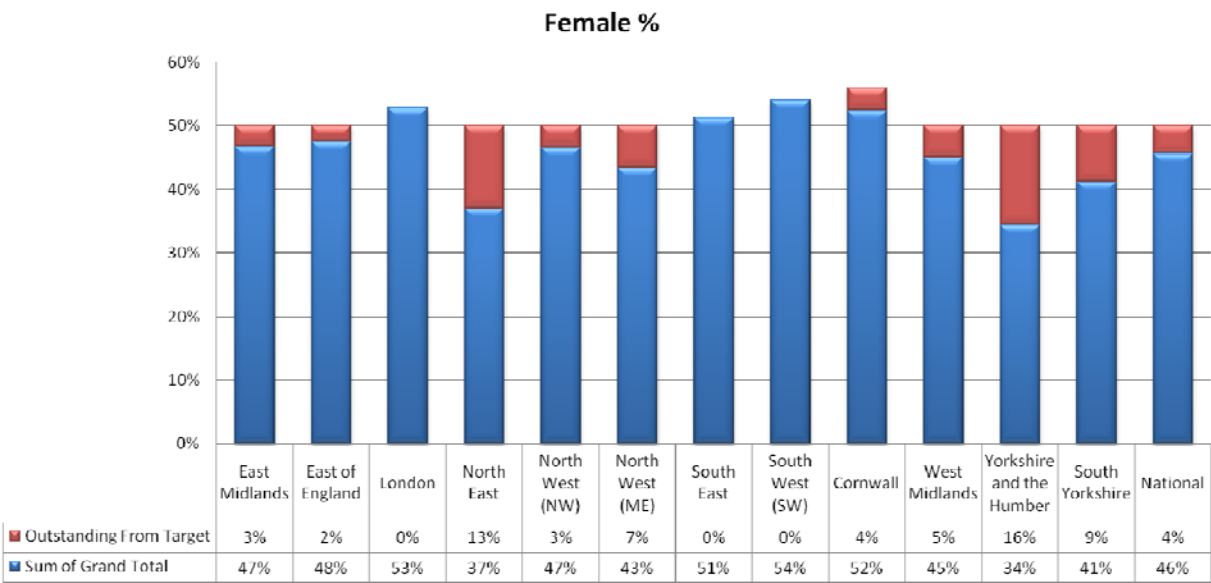
Priority 5



Source: ONS; <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238>

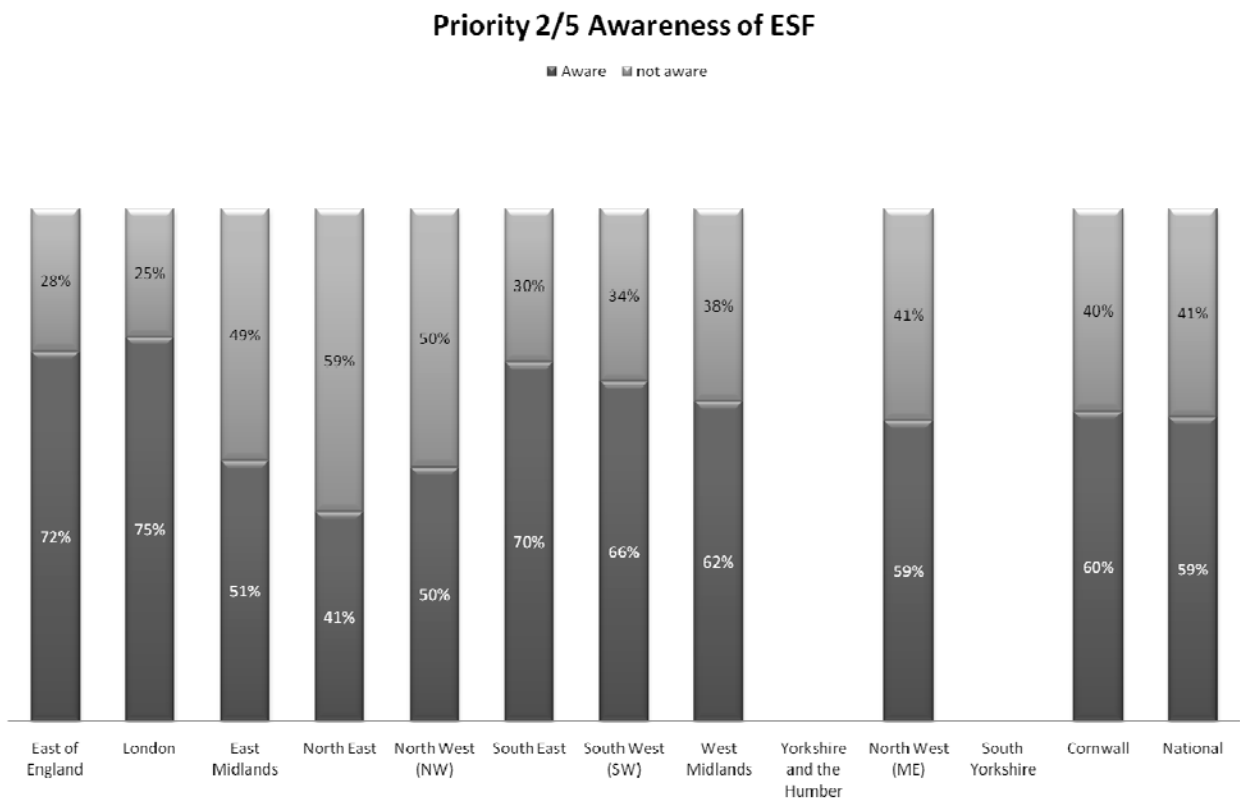
93 Figure 67 gives a breakdown of the proportion of Priority 2 and 5 participants who are women. Three regions have reached the target and all the other are just short of the target, with the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber having a slightly lower proportion than the other regions.

Figure 67: Proportion of Female Participants by Region



94 Figure 68 shows the awareness of European funding amongst the Priority 2 and 5 participants who were surveyed as part of the Cohort Study Wave 1. It is noticeable that awareness is far higher in Priority 2 and 5 than in Priority 1 and 4.

Figure 68





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