

Value for Money Report 2022/23

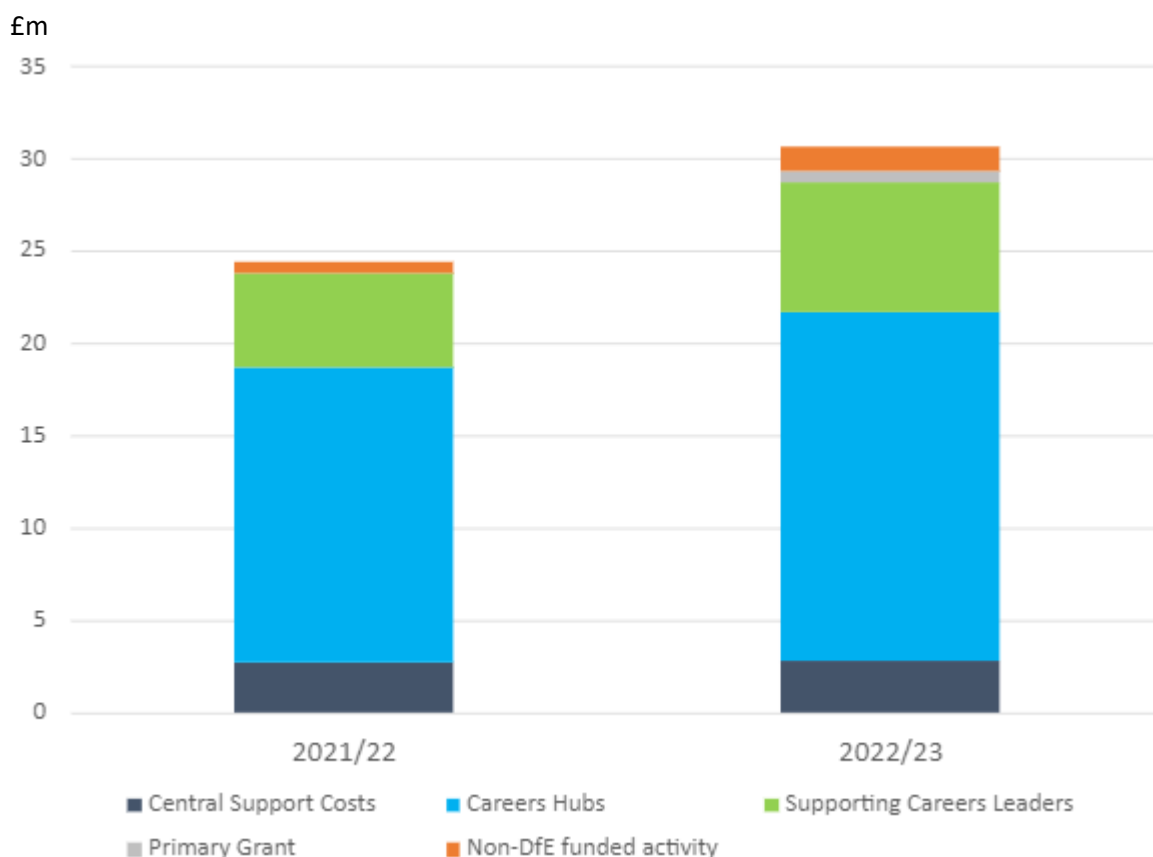


This report offers further detail to supplement the statutory reporting in the [Annual Report and Financial Statements](#). It sets out how the CEC receives, spends and leverages funding from a range of public and private sources.

1. Interventions to drive impact

The chart below shows the CEC’s expenditure by activity in 2022/23¹, compared with 2021/22.

Expenditure by activity



Activities (% DfE grant-funded expenditure) in 2022/23 included²:

- Careers Hubs (65.7%):** This activity rolled out and strengthened the infrastructure to bring together employers, schools, colleges and providers through increasing coverage of Careers Hubs including the Enterprise Adviser (business volunteer) Network. By 31 March 2023, 91% of schools and colleges were in a Careers Hub; 3,520 schools and colleges were matched to an [Enterprise Adviser](#) and 435 [Cornerstone Employers](#) provided local employer leadership. *(Teams that support Careers Hubs and the Enterprise Adviser Network are co-funded by local bodies – see section 3 below).*
- Supporting Careers Leaders (24.5%):** This work focused on the development of professional careers leadership in schools and colleges through training, continuous professional development, digital tools, resources and targeted support in specific areas, such as SEND. By 31 March 2023 4,464 schools and colleges had voluntarily used CEC’s Compass digital platform and 3,048 had used

¹ Aligns with the CEC’s Annual Report and Financial Statements. 2022/23 DfE expenditure: Supporting Careers Leaders £7m; Building Networks (Careers Hubs) £18.8m; Primary Grant £0.6m; Non DfE-funded activity £1.4m; Central Support £2.8m. See Appendix on funding allocations and expenditure over time.

² We evaluate our activities, publish and use insights to improve our programmes. In 2022-23 expenditure on research and evaluation was 1% of total DfE grant funding.

the enhanced Compass+ version at least once; 2,724 [Careers Leaders](#) had completed voluntary training, with 84% accessing our wider support, training and development offer. This year we developed and began piloting the Careers Impact System with 82 schools and colleges, bolstering leadership and quality across careers education.

- **Primary Grant:** Last year CEC was awarded a grant over 3 years to pilot a programme to increase awareness of the world of work amongst primary aged children, targeting 2,250 primary schools and 600,000 pupils and located in 55 Education Investment Areas.
- **Non-DfE funded activity:** The CEC receives funds from private and third sector donors allowing it to fund programmes to target disadvantage and extend its impact.
- **Central Support (9.8%):** The central administrative functions to support delivery. These costs have stayed largely constant as activities have scaled.

For the impact of these interventions please see [our impact](#).

2. Value for money

Over the past three years the CEC has kept central costs and total staffing largely stable, whilst increasing the reach of its main activities. For more information see [our people](#).

	2021/22	2022/23
Central support	11%	10%
Average staff headcount on DfE grant-funded activity	Budgeted: 99 Actual: 91.5	Budgeted: 103.8 Actual: 99.6
Schools and colleges in Careers Hubs*	3,301 (66%)	4,568 (91%)
Cornerstone Employers*	395	435
Schools and colleges partnered with a business volunteer*	3,528	3,520
Support to Careers Leaders in schools and colleges**	658 fully trained	725 fully trained 84% Careers Leaders accessing wider support, training and development ***
Schools and colleges using CEC's digital platform at least once*	Compass: 4,364 Compass +: 2,266	Compass: 4,464 Compass +: 3,048
Number of students completing the Future Skills Questionnaire**	15,385 (February half term)	53,118

*Cumulative totals end March. **In-year totals to 31 March unless stated otherwise. ***This year we are starting to measure % training and development reach within the Career Leader community. We are also piloting Careers Impact System - a new approach to quality assurance in institutions. Note: Compass enables self-evaluation and national data sharing. Establishments are being upgraded to Compass+ which offers greater capability and targeting.

The CEC routinely assesses value for money, considering efficiency and effectiveness including through cost control, benchmarking, best practice procurement and contract management. Examples in key spend areas include:

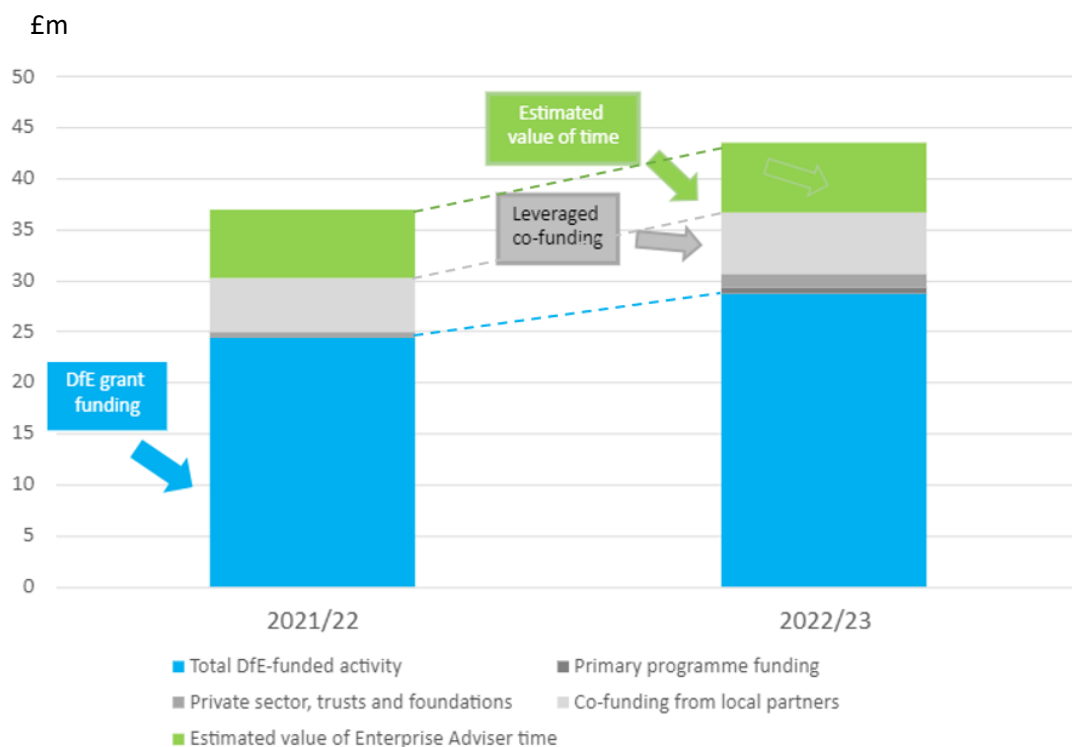
- **Central Support:** overall spend levels kept constant, central costs 10% of expenditure in 2022/23.
- **Careers Hubs:** by 2024, 100% of eligible schools and colleges will have the opportunity to join a Careers Hub. Local unit cost per institution in a Careers Hub reduced by a total of 18% since 2019/20³, driven by extending hub coverage to more schools and colleges.
- **Careers Leaders:** The CEC has continued to drive efficiency improvements. Average training costs per Careers Leader reduced by over 3% over the two years from 2020/21 to 2022/23.

For more information see [our impact](#).

3. Leveraging additional investment into careers education

The CEC finds matched investment (financial and in-kind through pro bono support) from employers and local partners: Local Authorities, Combined and Mayoral Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other interested actors, such as public bodies, private sector investors, trusts and foundations. The chart below shows the CEC's leverage in 2022/23, compared with 2021/22. For every £1 of DfE grant funding over the last 2 years, the CEC has leveraged an additional 55p worth of support: 28p in co-funding and investment support and 27p in estimated value of Enterprise Adviser time⁴.

Base and leveraged investment by source



³ This is calculated as the CEC contribution to local staffing costs to run the hub in that academic year divided by the total number of school and college hub members. From 2019/20 to 2022/23 hub coverage grew from 26% to 91% of schools and colleges.

⁴ Based on business volunteers spending an average of half a day per month working directly with their matched education establishments. Does not include the value of Cornerstone Employer commitments, and so is likely to underestimate the value of in-kind support.

Appendix – Funding allocations and expenditure over time

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
GFA* Maximum Grant	£10.9m	£19.6m	£18.8m	£30.2m	£24.3m	£28.8m	£28.0m	£30.7m
Grant Funding received from DfE	£5.7m	£16.0m	£18.8m	£30.2m	£21.3m	£25.9m	£23.8m	£28.7m
Spend reported in Annual Report and Financial Statements	£6.2m	£14.7m	£15.7m	£19.8m	£29.3m	£30.0m	£24.4m	£30.7m

*Grant Funding Agreement

CEC's published annual accounts differ from the funding allocated by DfE for two main reasons:

- During the years 2016/17-2019/20 DfE allocated funding to CEC in each financial year for programmes which extended beyond the end of that year (largely to secure a full academic year of activity). Whilst income was allocated and paid in the financial year, this was recognised in CEC's accounts in the year it was spent. This caused the figures given by DfE to be:
 - higher than the reported spend in years 2016/17-2018/19, and
 - lower in 2019/20-2020/21 due to the spend down of income received in prior years.
Income received for prior periods not yet spent is recorded as deferred income in CEC's annual accounts. CEC returned all amounts of advance funding at the end of 2020/21 to align our funding with the financial year.
- CEC receives funds from other sources in addition to DfE. This is the main difference in spend in 2015/16. Due to the alignment of DfE funding to financial years, from 2020/21 onwards, non-DfE funding is the only difference between grant funding received from DfE and spend reported in the Annual Report & Financial Statements. GFA maximum grant and Grant funding received from DfE relates only to secondary grants (main GFA & variations). From 2022/23 onwards, Primary Grant funding from DfE will also contribute to the difference in spend between funding received and spend reported in the Financial Statements.