

Value for Money Report 2021/22

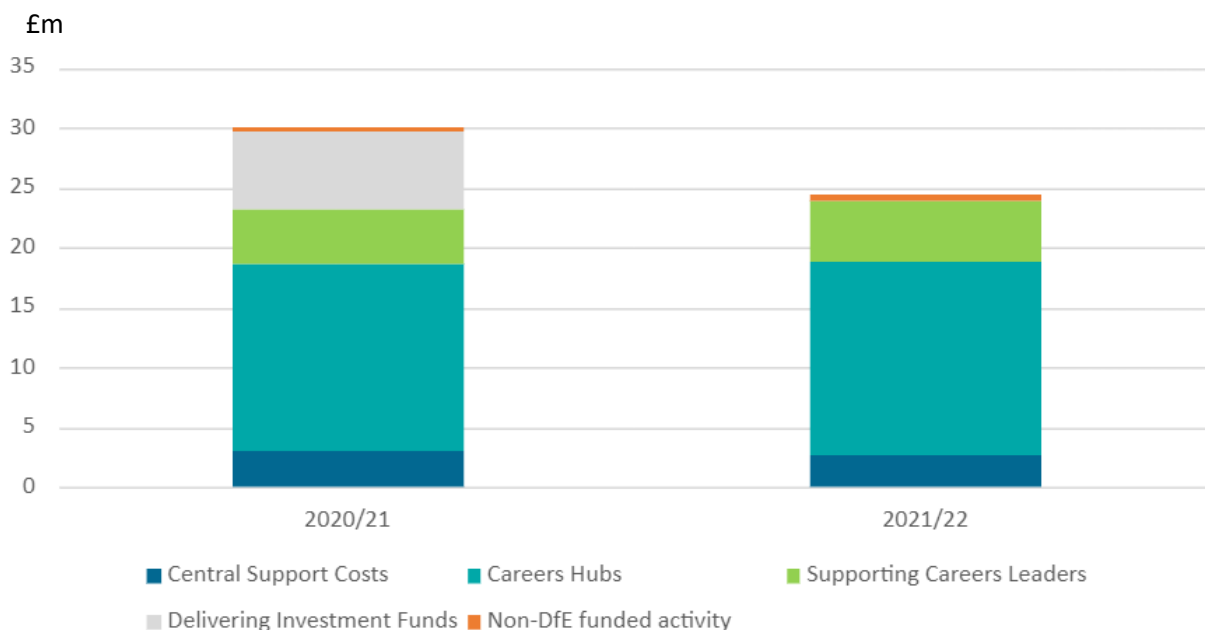


This report offers further detail to supplement the statutory reporting in the [Annual Report and Financial Statements](#). It sets out how the CEC receives, spends and leverages funding from a range of public and private sources.

1. Interventions to drive impact

The chart below shows the CEC’s expenditure by activity in 2021/22¹, compared with 2020/21.

Expenditure by activity



Activities (% expenditure) in 2021/22 included²:

- Supporting Careers Leaders (21%):** 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 2022 4,364 schools and colleges had voluntarily used CEC’s Compass digital platform and 2,266 had used the enhanced Compass+ version at least once; 2,099 [Careers Leaders](#) had completed voluntary training and 3,826 Careers Leaders, education leaders and governors had accessed online learning modules.
- Careers Hubs (66%):** This activity further developed the infrastructure to bring together employers, schools, colleges and providers through the roll out of Careers Hubs and the Enterprise Adviser (business volunteer) Network. By 31 March 2022 at least 3,301 schools and colleges were in a Careers Hub (66% of the total³); 3,528 schools and colleges were matched to an [Enterprise Adviser](#) and 395 [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).*

¹ Total expenditure aligns with the CEC’s Annual Report and Financial Statements. 2021/22 expenditure: Supporting Careers Leaders £5.1m; Careers Hubs (Building Networks) £16.0m; Non DfE-funded activity £0.6m; Central Support £2.7m. See Appendix on funding allocations and expenditure over time.

² We evaluate our activities, publish and use insights to improve our programmes. In 2021-22 expenditure on research and evaluation was 1% of total. It is budgeted at the same level in 2022-23. Delivering Investment Funds: specific funding streams to target disadvantage and included working with over 1,000 schools and providing over 830,000 employer encounters, taking place between September 2018 and March 2021.

³ Based on 4,989 total schools and colleges in England.

- **Non-DfE funded activity:** The CEC receives funds from private and third sector donors allowing it fund programmes to target disadvantage and extend its impact.
- **Central Support (11%):** 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 largely stable and total staffing below budget whilst increasing the reach of its main activities. For more information see [our people](#).

	2020/21	2021/22
Central support	10%	11%
Average staff headcount	Budgeted: 97 Actual: 90	Budgeted: 99 Actual: 91.5
Schools and colleges in Careers Hubs*	2,234 (45%)	3,301 (65%)
Cornerstone Employers*	324	395
Schools and colleges partnered with a business volunteer*	3,381	3,528
Support to Careers Leaders in schools and colleges**	655 fully trained 35,000 new unique resource directory users	658 fully trained 54,990 new unique resource directory users
Schools and colleges using CEC's digital platform at least once*	Compass: 4,104 Compass +: 1,609	Compass: 4,364 Compass +: 2,266

*Cumulative totals end March. **In-year totals. ***Rate of new resource directory users is anticipated to slow and focus will be on serving user base. 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 across its activity include:

- **Central Support:** overall spend levels kept constant, central costs 11% of expenditure in 2021/22.
- **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 20% since 2019/20⁴ and is anticipated to reduce further.

⁴ 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 2021/22 hub coverage grew from 26% to 65% of schools and colleges.

- **Supporting Careers Leaders:** The CEC has continued to drive efficiency improvements. Average Careers Leader training costs reduced by over 5% from 2020/21 to 2021/22.

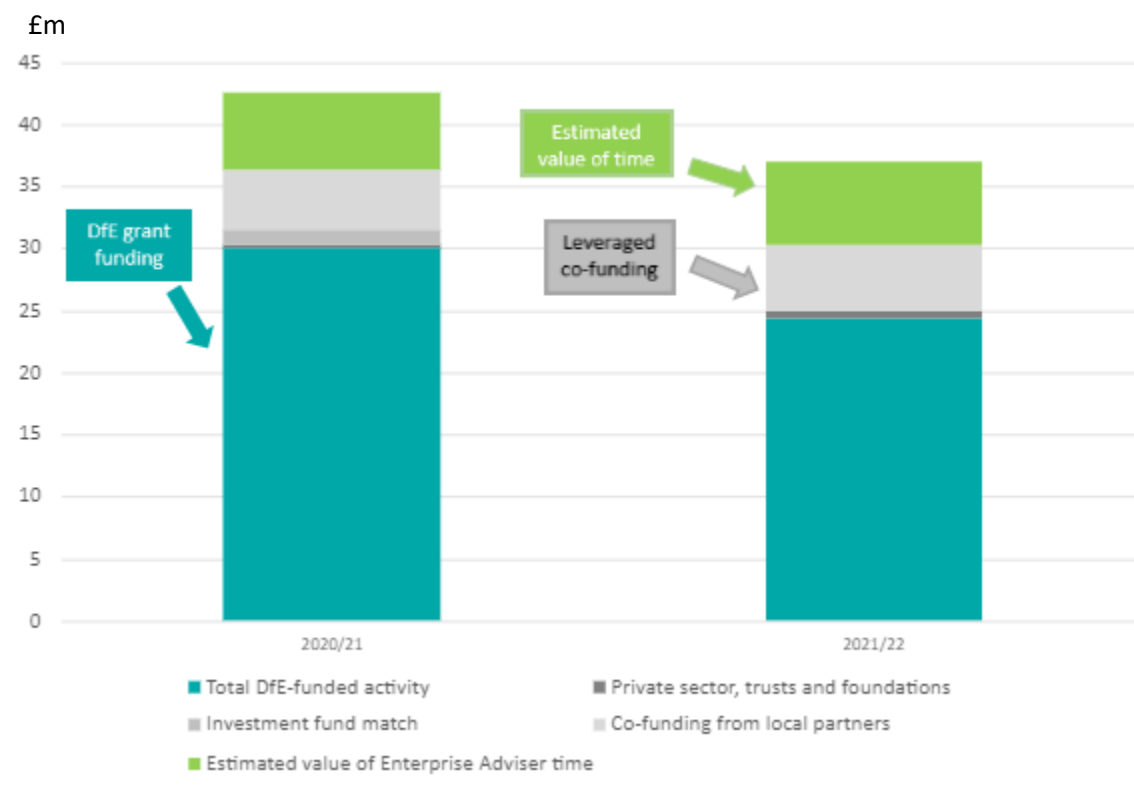
For more information see [our impact](#).

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 Enterprise Partnerships, Combined and Mayoral Authorities and other interested actors, such as public bodies, private sector investors, trusts and foundations.

The chart below shows the CEC’s leverage in 2021/22, compared with 2020/21 and 2022/23 budget. For every £1 of DfE grant funding over the last 2 years, the CEC has leveraged an additional 47p worth of support: 23p in co-funding and investment support and 24p in estimated value of Enterprise Adviser time⁵.

Base and leveraged investment by source



⁵ Based on business volunteers spending an average of half a day per month working directly with their matched education establishments.

Appendix – Funding allocations and expenditure over time

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

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 than DfE. This is the main difference in 2015/16. Due to the alignment of DfE funding to financial years, from 2020/21 non-DfE funding will be the only source of any difference in future accounts.