

## Rapid evidence assessment: What enables the effective design, delivery and evaluation of local work and health programmes?



Source: IES 2024

### Key findings

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Labour market  
evidence programme

## Scope of rapid evidence assessment (REA)

- The REA covered programmes and interventions focused on a region, local authority, mayoral strategic authority, or integrated care board area, in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland. The programmes include:
  - clear elements of local tailoring and flexibility
  - a target population of people aged 16 to state pension age
  - a focus on both work and health outcomes
  - an evaluation completed between 2017 and January 2026.

# Key findings



## Programme design and implementation

- **Programme governance** should include: differentiation between operational and strategic functions, time invested in developing shared understanding, and strong well-connected local leads.
- **Local integrated partnerships** (where new systems are created) rather than coordination (where activities are linked) are key for successful programmes, ensuring effective referrals and delivery.
- **Involvement of service users** adds value to programme design and delivery by ensuring it meets user needs and is adapted to local contexts.
- **Devolved and flexible funding arrangements** and an absence of 'payment by results' enable person-centred, holistic delivery.

# Key findings



## Local evaluation and effective use of MI

- Evaluation works best when it is **built into programme design, feasibility testing, and implementation.**
- Having a **clear strategy for how MI data is used** (both to support delivery and learning, in addition to monitoring and reporting) is important for visibility of performance and staff engagement.
- The process of evaluation can **help strengthen evaluation capacity** in local areas where this is appropriately resourced with support offered to staff.