

# **The Work Programme National Partnership Forum**

## **Thursday 13 December 2012**

Chair – Richard Aitken-Davies

### **Attendees**

Please see attached list.

### **Formal Opening of the Work Programme National Partnership Forum**

Richard Aitken-Davies formally opened the Work Programme Partnership Forum and thanked everyone for their attendance. Richard thanked EOS for their hospitality in hosting the forum at their venue. Richard also took time to introduce Julia Sweeney who is the current Interim Director for Contracted Customer Services Directorate.

### **Work Programme Performance Update**

The consensus of opinion was that the release of the Work Programme first year statistics had gone well. It was agreed that more work is required to ensure the media has a full a picture as possible of the programme to ensure clarity of understanding the statistics and that this work will continue to be taken forward.

The frequency of statistical publication is currently being discussed and when an agreement is reached forum members will be informed.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and providers continue to work together, developing improvement ideas and sharing good practice. The forum membership will continue to discuss sharing best practice across all areas of employer engagement, ensuring that policy intent is clear and does not conflict.

### **Open Forum**

#### **Universal Credit**

The forum was updated on the latest available information on the development of Universal Credit.

#### **Recovery Partnership**

The recovery partnership group discussed how they can work with DWP and Work Programme providers in assisting those people who are in recovery from previous addiction problems and those who are currently undergoing rehabilitation. The forum agreed that this is a group of people who have the potential to succeed but require close support to enable them to be in a position to do so.

### **AOB**

#### **Interactive Training material**

At the last meeting of the Work Programme Partnership Forum DWP informed the membership that they had been approached by an organisation offering free interactive training material that may benefit provider adviser staff during discussion/interviews with customers. The forum was updated on developments and that an invitation would be issued to providers to attend a seminar to look at the training material.

## Formal closing of the Work Programme Partnership Forum

Richard Aitken-Davies thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Forum.

## Future Partnership Forum Meeting Dates for 2012/2013

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room, Five Ways House, Birmingham.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room Five Ways House, Birmingham.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room Five Ways House, Birmingham.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Venue to be confirmed.

## Membership of the Work Programme National Partnership Forum

A4E	Rehab Group
Avanta	Seetec
Interserve Working Futures	Serco
CDG	Working Links
EOS	Employment Related Services Association (ERSA)
ESG Group	DWP Contracted Customer Services Directorate (CCSD)
G4S	DWP Work Programmes Division
Ingeus UK Ltd	DWP Labour Market and Conditionality Directorate
JHP Group Ltd	DWP Work Programme Provision Group Management
MAXIMUS	DWP Account Management
Newcastle College (Intraining)	DWP Provision Performance and Controls Division (PPCD)
Pertemps People Development Group	DWP National Partnerships
Prospects Services Ltd	Recovery Partnership
Reed in Partnership	

**NB** names of some DWP and Provider representatives have been removed as disclosure would breach one or more of the data protection principles.