

The Work Programme National Partnership Forum Monday 25 November 2013

Chair – Simon Tse

Attendees:

DWP, CDG, Serco, Ingeus, Maximus, EOS, G4S, ESG and ERSA

Formal Opening of the Work Programme National Partnership Forum

Simon Tse opened the Work Programme Partnership Forum, welcoming those providers invited to attend the first meeting of the refocused strategic group.

Help to Work

A brief update of the Help to Work scheme was provided. This included an explanation of the trailblazer DWP ran in 2011/12 which tested two modes of support for the very long-term unemployed - the Mandatory Intervention Regime and the Community Work Placement scheme. Early evidence showed there were significant positive benefits, with increased motivation and confidence helping more people move into work and off benefit. The final impact assessment of the trailblazer will be published 16 December 2013.

The Help to Work package for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that was announced in October will be introduced from April 2014. This includes three modes of support for JSA Work Programme completers which will see around one third of claimants move onto the Mandatory Intervention Regime, around one third attending the Jobcentre daily and around one third being referred to Community Work Placements. Learning from the trailblazer the Community Work Placement scheme will be aimed at claimants who have completed the Work Programme and whose primary barrier to work is a lack of recent work experience or motivation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-to-work-scheme-announced-by-the-government>

The invitation to tender for the Community Work Placement scheme was announced on 24 October 2013 with a deadline of 05 December 2013.

Work Programme Performance Update

An active discussion was held around how performance can continue to improve in relation to referrals to the Programme, those claimants moving off benefits who do not move into work and in particular Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants.

Operational working groups, including the independently chaired ESA Best Practice Group, have been set up to look at various aspects of performance improvement.

Formal closing of the Work Programme Partnership Forum

Simon Tse thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Forum.

Future Partnership Forum Meeting Dates for 2013/2014

Wednesday 8 January 2014, 10.30-1.30, Conference Room 3, Rockingham House, Sheffield.

Wednesday 9 April 2014, 10.30-1.30, Room 6.37 Caxton House, London

Wednesday 9 July 2014, 10.30-1.30, location to be confirmed

Wednesday 8 October 2014 10.30-1.30 location 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 National Partnerships
Ingeus UK Ltd	DWP Labour Market and Conditionality Directorate
Learndirect	
MAXIMUS	
Newcastle College (Intraining)	
Pertemps People Development Group	
Prospects Services Ltd	
Reed in Partnership	

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