Evening Seminar

Offenders and Welfare Reform

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Social Justice

- Social Justice principles underpin and link all aspects of our work and reforms - influencing our overall direction, our policies, and the delivery of all DWP services.


- In October 2012, we published the *Social Justice Outcomes Framework*.

- On 24 April 2013, the Government published *Social Justice: transforming lives – one year on*.

- Later in 2014 we’ll be publishing a further update on the framework
What is Social Justice?

- Social Justice is about giving the individuals and families facing multiple disadvantages the support and tools they need to turn their lives around.

- A number of principles set out this approach:
  - A focus on **prevention and early intervention**;
  - Where problems arise, concentrating on **recovery and independence**, not maintenance;
  - Promoting **work** for those who can as the most sustainable route out of poverty, while offering **unconditional support** to those who are severely disabled and cannot work;
  - Recognising that the most effective solutions will often be designed and delivered **at a local level**; and
  - Ensuring that interventions provide a **fair deal for the taxpayer**
DWP Commissioning Strategy

• In July 2014 published the updated DWP Commissioning Strategy

• Strong emphasis on:
  – Social investment
  – Partnerships
    • More integrated commissioning
    • Understand the local provision landscape
    • Capability to join up funding streams
DWP Commissioning Strategy

- National commissioning of large scale contracts, such as the Work Programme

- Smaller specialist services, particularly for those furthest from labour market, procured through Jobcentre Plus, DWP or a third party on behalf of DWP

- Test innovative solutions for specialist contracts
  - Co commissioned provision
  - Social investment based funding models
  - Social investment bonds
DWP Delivery

- Jobcentre Plus – Work Services Directorate
  - Small scale commissioning
  - External Partnership teams at a local level

- Claims management – benefit processing

- Telephone calls – contact centres

- Overarching – DWP strategy, large scale commissioning
Welfare Reform

• Provide value for money and place greater emphasis on personal responsibility – whilst protecting the most vulnerable

• Employment must be an aspiration for everyone who is able to work

• Our welfare reforms will make sure that the system promotes work and helps people lift themselves out of poverty

“A system that was originally designed to support the poorest in society is now trapping them in the very condition it was supposed to alleviate”

Iain Duncan-Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Welfare Reform

Published by the Department for Work and Pensions.
Housing

• The introduction of a cap on Local Housing Allowance rates and the extension of the shared accommodation rate to people under 35

• Localised support for Council Tax has been introduced to replace Council Tax Benefit

• Since April 2013 all tenants renting from a local authority, housing association or other registered social landlord have received housing support based on household size

• In 2014/15 we will continue to support those affected by the welfare reforms with a total government contribution to Discretionary Housing Payments of £165 million
Benefit Cap

• In April 2013 a cap was introduced on the total amount of benefit that working-age claimants can receive

• The benefit cap applies to the combined income from:
  • Out-of-work benefits;
  • Housing Benefit;
  • Child Tax Credit;
  • Child Benefit;
  • and Carer’s Allowance.

• Some households are exempt from the benefit cap
Social Fund

- Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans were abolished on 1 April 2013.

- From April 2013, local authorities in England, and the Scottish and Welsh Governments have been free to deliver their own local arrangements for assistance for people facing a crisis or short term unavoidable need;
  - Local welfare provision in England
  - Scottish Welfare Fund
  - Discretionary Assistance Fund in Wales

- Other elements of social fund, such as Budgeting Loans, Sure Start Maternity Grants, Funeral Payments, Cold Weather Payments and Winter Fuel payments remain within DWP.
Employment Support

- **Universal Jobmatch** - is an online job posting and matching service available to all jobseekers, not just those claiming benefits.
- **Youth Contract** - designed to get more young people into meaningful employment, training or work experience.
- **The Work Programme** offers greater freedom to tailor support to the needs of individual claimants.
- **New Enterprise Allowance (NEA)**, launched in 2011 to help unemployed people who want to start their own business.
- **Work Choice**, launched in October 2010 is a specialist disability employment programme.
Employment Support

• **Help to Work**, from April 2014, Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants returning from the Work Programme will go onto one of three intensive modes of support, determined by a Jobcentre Plus Work Coach and according to need.

• From April 2014, **pre-Work Programme Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants** and certain lone parents and responsible carers will be subject to a number of measures which increase conditionality and support.

• In addition as part of these changes all new claimants have to complete a **Claimant Commitment**.

• Freedom and Flexibility
DWP support for offenders

In March 2012 we introduced:

“Day One” mandation to the Work Programme for prison leavers if they make a claim to JSA prior to or within 13 weeks of release

- To enable participation at the point of release, Jobcentre Plus staff in prisons facilitate advance claims to JSA which are activated on release

- Aim – to provide immediate employment support through Work Programme to this vulnerable group at the time that they most need it; when they are leaving prison

- Evidence shows that having a job reduces re-offending by between a third and a half
The future

- Universal Credit
- Transforming Rehabilitation
- Work Programme
- ESF 2015-2020
Universal Credit

• Replaces six in work and out of work benefits
  • Income related elements of JSA and ESA
  • Income Support
  • Housing Benefit
  • Working Tax Credit
  • Child Tax Credit

• Designed to make work pay. As claimants earn more money, financial support will be withdrawn at a slower rate than is the case under the current system.

• A single monthly payment, into a bank account, will be made to a household rather than an individual.

• Local support will be available to help claimants where appropriate.
Universal Credit and offenders

- Day One mandation to Work Programme for JSA claimants continues as does early access for those with community sentence.

- Currently being delivered in some areas of the country and is being rolled out in a phased approach both by location and client group.

- Universal Credit
  - Housing benefit run on extended for those entering prison
  - advance claims up to a month before release
  - possible to get UC advance of up to 50% in first month
Transforming Rehabilitation (TR)

- Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are responsible for the introduction of TR
- DWP ensuring we have Employment Benefit Adviser presence in all Resettlement Prisons.
- DWP are working with MoJ to ensure they understand the learning experience from our contracting out of provision.
- Working on communication events at National and Local level
- Data sharing – will be key to success.
- Opportunities to work closely with local colleagues to tailor route ways
- Working to understand how ex offenders will be supported by Community Rehabilitation Companies and how this fits with any customer journey of a benefit recipient
**Work Programme**

- Starting to look at the shape of work programme support once current contracts come to an end

**ESF 2015-2020**

- NOMS retains co-finance status
- DWP has to work with LEPs on local ESF provision
- Move from support in the community to that being delivered in custody for 15-20.
Other areas of work

• Working with Transforming Youth Custody

• Working with MoJ on female offenders and debt

• MoJ and DWP now have agreement for annual data share of all criminal records and benefits/employment data

• Used in future to highlight changes in benefit and offending behaviour
Questions ?
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Welfare that works

Published by the Department for Work and Pensions.