

## Department for Work and Pensions

### Work Programme Live Running Memo

**To:** Work Programme Providers

**From:** Work Programmes Division

**Memo Serial Number:** 129

**Date:** 2nd August 2013

**Subject:** Ex-Remploy claimants referred to the Work Programme

**Action:** For information and action

**Timing:** Routine

#### Background

A number of Remploy factories have closed across the country over the past 12 months. The vast majority of former Remploy workers affected by these closures will be JSA claimants aged 25 and over (Payment Group 2). They will start to reach their 12 month mandatory entry point from August 2013. Around 400 JSA claimants nationally (Payment Group 2) have the potential to enter the Work Programme between August 2013 and January 2014, if they remain on benefit.

Every ex-employee from Remploy will have a disability to some extent. In helping them make the transition into work, each disabled individual has a Jobcentre Plus Personal Case Worker (PCW). This support is available for 18 months from the date of factory closure.

In most cases, individuals joining the Work Programme will have a balance of time available with the PCW to help them overcome their barriers to work. They will also have access to a Remploy People Help and Support Package (PH&SP). Concurrent access to the Work Programme and PH&SP is acceptable.

The PH&SP includes a personal budget (PB) to help individuals adjust to life outside of Remploy and to move into or closer to employment.

A PCW can authorise personal budget expenditure to obtain any individually tailored, appropriate support, agreed in discussions with the disabled person, which cannot be provided through other DWP programmes or suitable provision.

Where the person is on the Work Programme, the PB may still be considered but should not be used to purchase support that their provider should be delivering as part of their Work Programme support. The PB should never be used to purchase Work Programme or other DWP provision.

Providers should be aware that the PCW will be in contact with the individual on an agreed regular basis. Face-to-face reviews are held because the PCW is required to ensure the identified objectives are still relevant and that the claimant is on track to achieve the desired outcomes.

### **Summary and action**

Ex-Remploy claimants will be referred to the Work Programme in line with standard processes and should be supported by the use of warm handovers where these arrangements exist locally between Jobcentre Plus and providers.

The Jobcentre Plus referral, sent via the Provider Referral and Payments (PRaP) system, will indicate that the claimant was formerly employed by Remploy to help you with your initial engagement activity. Your action planning takes precedence over the Remploy range of support, enabling you to have the freedom to determine what activities each participant will undertake on the Work Programme. However, whilst taking part in the Work Programme the individual can continue to access support from the PH&SP and PCW for the balance of time remaining.

It will be good practice to consult with the PCW as they will have spent a considerable amount of time with the participant to understand their needs and circumstances as well as desired outcomes towards moving them into or closer to work. You should remind the participant to keep in touch with their PCW whilst on the Work Programme so they can continue to access the amount of support available from the PH&SP.

### **Further Information Contact Details**

All enquiries on the subject of this memo should be raised with your Performance Manager in the first instance; they will endeavour to provide you with an answer as soon as possible.

Regards

### **Work Programme Policy**