

# Department for Work and Pensions

## Work Programme Live Running Memo

**To:** Work Programme Providers

**From:** Work Programmes Division

**Memo Serial Number:** WP LR 105

**Date:** 15 March 2013

**Subject:** National Rollout of the Benefit Cap

**Action:** For Information

**Timing:** Immediate

### Background

DWP have already informed you that from April 2013 a phased rollout approach was being implemented to introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive.

National rollout will start in July 2013 and be completed by the end of September 2013.

The level of the benefit cap will be set at £500 a week for couples/ lone parents and at £350 a week for single adult households.

Claimants who may potentially be capped (based on their current circumstances) will have been contacted via letter.

This memo is to inform you of the change.

### Summary and action

DWP advised you on the 23 January 2013 that Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey Local Authorities would be the first to start to apply the benefit cap from 15 April 2013 as part of a phased rollout.

In line with existing plans, the remaining Local Authorities will apply the benefit cap from 15 July 2013 with all households identified being capped by the end of September 2013.

Prior to the benefit cap being applied, DWP will be undertaking a 100% check of information held on claimant/household live system records. Once that check is complete the information will be shared with Housing Benefit teams so that they can accurately implement the cap via a deduction from Housing Benefit.

The priority remains to support households into work, and towards a stable and sustainable working lifestyle. Therefore it is your responsibility to continue to work intensively with participants to enable them to find employment.

If you receive queries from a participant relating to the benefit cap you must refer them back to Jobcentre Plus, the Benefit Cap helpline or their Local Authority.

### **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 Programmes Division Enquiries Team**