

Department for Work and Pensions

Work Programme Live Running Memo

To: Work Programme Providers
From: Work Programmes Division
Memo Serial Number: 092 **Date:** 7 January 2013
Subject: Reduced Signing trial for Work Programme participants
Action: For Information
Timing: Immediate

Background

1. Whilst on Work Programme provision, participants are still required to attend their local Jobcentre on a fortnightly basis to review their job search activity.
2. Ministers have asked the Department to look at options for reduced signing for Work Programme participants to investigate if this has any impact on the off flow from benefits.
3. It has been decided to run a trial to look at the impact of reduced signing activity for Work Programme participants.
4. The reduced signing trial will operate in four Jobcentre Plus Districts beginning in February 2013, ending in Spring 2014.
5. This memo is to give you information regarding the trial.

Summary and action

6. The Jobcentre Plus Districts running the trial will be:
 - Leicester & Northampton and West London – Suspended signing
 - Black Country and South Yorkshire – Four Weekly signing
7. Details of the two options for reduced signing are:
 - **Suspended signing** - For the period of the trial the participant will not be required to attend the Jobcentre or submit job search evidence unless you raise an actively seeking doubt/availability doubt or the participant reports a change of circumstances or there is a fraud concern.
 - **Four weekly signing**- For the period of the trials the participant will sign on at their Jobcentre Plus office four weekly. The participant will only be required to provide evidence of actively seeking once every four weeks (which will cover the 4-week period).

8. Participants attending their job-search review at the beginning of the trial will be randomly allocated into either a 'control' group who will continue to attend as normal or a 'treatment' group who will be told about their revised signing arrangements.
9. Whilst taking part in the trial participants still remain subject to their normal conditionality i.e. has to be actively seeking and available for work. If you have any doubt about whether a participant is meeting this, you should raise in the usual way.

This trial should have no impact on your current processes or practices.

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