

Withdrawn

This publication has been withdrawn.

It is no longer current.

European Social Fund Provider Live Running Memo

To: European Social Fund Providers **From:** DWP Work Programme Division

Memo Serial Number: 022 **Date:** 19 March 2013

Subject: National Rollout of the Benefit Cap

Action: For Information and action

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 29 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 support families and help meet the individual needs of family members where unemployment crosses the generations to move them closer to the labour market and into employment that lasts.

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 enquires 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.

Please note: DWP helpline numbers are available for individuals with benefit cap queries, but these are not intended to answer general queries.

- **English language helpline: 0845 6057064**
- **Welsh language helpline: 0845 6057066**
- **Text-phone: 0845 6088551**

The helpline is open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

Regards

ESF Provision Policy Team