

Withdrawn

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Work Choice Live Running Memo

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Memo Serial No: LR 39

Date: 20 October 2015

Subject: New LMS Opportunities for customers with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC)

Action: To note

Timing: Immediate

Background

In accordance with the Autism Act 2009 (England), and in response to the Think Autism Strategy (published in April 2013), DWP is working to improve its services for people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). DWP wishes to emphasise its commitment to both the letter and the spirit of this legislation.

In support of this, the Minister of State for Disabled People has requested that DWP introduce new ASC-specific LMS opportunities as a means to ensure that we better recognise and support people with ASC who are referred to the Work Choice Programme.

Whilst there are disability markers on LMS for other disabilities, ASC is not specifically recognised and providers may sometimes be unaware that individuals referred have ASC. This change aims to deliver process improvements, enabling providers to better anticipate and identify reasonable adjustment solutions to improve the service people with autism receive.

The decision to disclose this information will remain with the disabled person and will be voluntary.

Action

From 26 October 2015 you will begin to receive referrals to your programme via two new LMS Opportunities entitled:

- Minister Work Choice - New Customer
- Minister Work Choice - Retention

Customers referred via these Opportunities will have declared themselves to have ASC and specifically requested that you should be alerted to this by means of this discrete referral route.

In all other respects these new LMS opportunities are identical to a standard referral; participants who enter your programme via these new opportunities will count towards your starts profile and cohort targets in the usual way.

Summary

LMS and PRaP now makes use of two referral opportunities specifically created for Work Choice candidates with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). The purpose of these discrete opportunities is to offer Work Choice providers timely, relevant and pertinent information that enables providers to recognise, prepare for and provide the most effective support for individuals with autism; ensuring that any reasonable adjustment solutions can be identified at the earliest intervention (in accordance with the Equality Act 2010).

Full guidance will be found in Work Choice Provider Guidance, Section 2 (October 2015 iteration).

Further Information Contact Details

If you have any queries about this Live Running Memo please contact your performance manager, in the first instance, or the Work Choice Policy Team via SPECIALIST.DISABILITYPROGRAMMEQUERIES@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK