

# Withdrawn

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## **Work Choice Live Running Memo 62**

To: Work Choice Providers

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### **Memo serial number: LR 62**

Date: 15 December 2017

Subject: Baselining Work Choice Protected Places

Action: To Be Aware

Timing: Immediate

### **Information**

The Work Choice programme is currently in the process of closing for new referrals and DWP is turning its attention to the nature of the customer journey for Work Choice's final participants.

We wish to ensure a smooth exit from Work Choice support for all participants who receive in-work support, and in particular for those who may be occupying a Protected Place in a Work Choice Supported Business.

Supported Businesses receive guaranteed funding corresponding to the number of Protected Places agreed at the outset of the Work Choice programme (and revised from time to time via contract variations) subject to compliance with Work Choice programme delivery and performance standards.

In order to consider measures to assist you to help your participants with their onward journey, post-Work Choice, DWP need a level of certainty over the number of Protected Places being utilised. To this end Providers will be aware that, in

September 2017, DWP revised and improved the monthly Supported Business Protected Places payment claims return.

This memo informs Providers and Supported Businesses that, once the new Protected Places return has had six months to bed in, we will use the data supplied in the February 2018 return to set a baseline for the numbers of Protected Places allocated in the final months of the programme.

### **Action**

Please ensure the accuracy of your Protected Places claim figures in every monthly claim form, but in particular in the February 2018 return.

We envisage little practical impact for Supported Business, as overall Protected Place allocation is fairly static. As now, should you find you require additional places, provided your entire allocation is filled, you may make a request on behalf of your Supported Business following standard procedure as set out in Provider Guidance Section 13a. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis and further allocation will depend on your business case and availability of places.

Please be aware that requests for additional Protected Places after February 2018 will be considered by exception only and will require a compelling business case.

### **Further Information and Contact Details**

If you have any queries about this Live Running Memo please consult your Performance Manager in the first instance, or contact the Work Choice Policy Team via: <mailto:disabilityemploymentprovisionpolicy.enquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk>