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Department for Work and Pensions

Work Programme Live Running Memo

To: Work Programme Providers

Cc: Account Managers
Account Executives
Senior Performance Managers
Performance Managers

From: Work Programmes Division

Memo Serial Number: WP188

Date: 28 April 2015

Subject: Transforming Rehabilitation – 13 Week Deferral

Action: For Information and action

Timing: 28 April 2015

Background

Transforming Rehabilitation is a Ministry of Justice led programme that was introduced in February 2015 and will change the way offenders are supported back into the community, sustainably reducing re-offending whilst continuing to protect the public. Providers from private, public and voluntary sectors will deliver support and rehabilitation to low and medium risk offenders through **21 Community Rehabilitation Companies** (CRCs) across England and Wales, receiving 'Payment by Results' for reducing re-offending. The public sector National Probation Service will continue to manage high risk offenders.

Summary and action

CRCs will start to deliver resettlement services to prison leavers from the 1st of May. A nationwide network of resettlement prisons has been created and post release support will be provided for a period of up to 12 months. New legislation has come into force that means around 45,000 prisoners per year released from short sentences (anything more than 1 day) will now also receive 12 months statutory supervision in the community where they didn't before. Support could include signposting to help with housing, addiction issues, employment and other areas that are needed to help resettle the prison leaver and address re-offending behaviours.

Currently, if prison leavers claim Jobseeker's Allowance in advance of release, or within 13 weeks following release, they are automatically mandated onto the Work Programme from 'Day One'. Flexibility exists to defer

entry for up to 13 weeks if there is a better prospect of employment without Work Programme support. Feedback in the evaluation of Day One Mandation suggests that for some prison leavers, issues exist that need addressing before they can fully engage in work or in the Work Programme
www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-evaluation-day-one-mandation-of-prison-leavers

The introduction of Transforming Rehabilitation means that, when CRCs have identified such issues and facilitated appropriate activity to address them, DWP staff should consider using more flexibility as to when prison leavers who claim JSA (before or after release) are mandated to Work Programme. Deferral would be for a maximum of 13 weeks, and only in cases where the individual is already receiving support that addresses barriers to effective Work Programme participation, and where that support continues on release.

Ensuring they are able to receive the right support before being mandated will **mean prison leavers are more ready to engage with Work Programme**. Success relies on close working between JCP, CRCs and Work Programme providers and DWP will provide relevant local contact details in the very near future.

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 Programme Provision Enquiries Team