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Department for Work and Pensions

Work Programme Live Running Memo

To: Work Programme Providers

Cc: Category Managers

Supplier Managers

Senior Performance Managers

Performance Managers

From: Work Programme Team

Memo Serial Number: LR181

Date: 11 February 2015

Subject: Ceasing Referral to Payment Group 8 (IB/IS

Volunteers)

Action: For information and action

Timing: 2 March 2015

Background

In England, claimants on IB/IS could volunteer to be supported by the Work Programme; these claimants were referred to Work programme providers via Payment Group 8 (PG8).

PG8 was funded through our European Social Fund (ESF) allocation (2007-13), which has now drawn to a close. When contracting for the Work Programme, the Invitation to Tender set out that this Payment Group would be available for a limited period, in line with the ESF rules for the funding period.

Summary and action

With affect from 2 March 2015 PG8 will be closed for new referrals. You should not receive any further referrals from Jobcentre Plus for PG8 via the PRaP system.

Providers should continue to work with previously referred PG8 participants until they complete their allotted time on the Work Programme.

If you do receive a new referral for PG8 on or after the 2 March 2015; you should immediately contact the Advisory Team Manager (ATM) at the Jobcentre concerned. If the ATM confirms a referral was made in error they will ask you to cancel or reject the referral.

Please note - You must not cancel or reject a referral before speaking to the ATM as the decision as to whether the referral is incorrect lies with them.

The Work Programme provider guidance will be updated in due course.

Further information contact details

All enquiries on the subject of this memo should be raised with your Performance Manager in the first instance.

Regards

Work Programme Team