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Department for Work and Pensions

Work Programme Live Running Memo

To: Work Programme Providers involved in ESA 18-24 pilot only

From: Work Programmes Division

Memo Serial Number: 140

Date: 12 December 2013

Subject: ESA 18-24 Month pilot

Action: For Information

Timing: Immediate

Background

1. The Minister for Employment, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Prime Minister's Office have asked DWP to test alternative, innovative approaches to providing increased support to Income Related (IR) Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) who have an 18-24 month prognosis.
2. DWP have been asked to test if any of three new approaches to supporting this harder to help group proves more effective in moving them closer to or into work than Business As Usual (BAU).
3. These approaches will be additional support delivered separately by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Jobcentres (JC), Health Care Professionals (HCP) and the Work Programme (WP).
4. The pilots will test which type of increased support best improves these claimants' prognosis and moves them closer to or into work.
5. Commencing on 25 November 2013, the pilots are to run for a total of 2 years 9 months. This takes into account a recruitment period up to August 2014 and 2 years in the pilot for claimants recruited up to that date.
6. The proposal is to run three pilots over 2 years
 - Pilot 1 – Health Care Provider led
 - Pilot 2 – Enhanced Jobcentre support
 - Pilot 3 – Work Programme led

7. Jobcentre Plus will use a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) tool in all three pilot areas to allocate equal claimant numbers between the pilot and Jobcentre Plus Business As Usual process. This will provide a control against which to measure the relative success of each pilot.

8. Certain categories of the claimant group will be exempt from participation in the pilots. These will include Carers, Lone Parents whose youngest child is under 5 years old, and claimants who are in receipt of only Contributions-based ESA

9. The three pilots will be launched in the following geographical areas:

- Pilot 1: HCP-led – five Districts within Central England Group:
 - Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland;
 - Leicestershire and Northamptonshire;
 - Derbyshire;
 - Black Country; and
 - Staffordshire and Shropshire.
- Pilot 2: JC-led – all Districts in Southern England Group:
 - Greater Wessex;
 - Surrey and Sussex;
 - Thames Valley;
 - Gloucestershire and West of England; and
 - Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.
- Pilot 3: WP-led – four Districts in North East England Group:
 - Northumberland, Tyne and Wear;
 - Durham and Tees Valley;
 - North East Yorkshire and the Humber

Summary and action

10. Work Programme eligible claimants in the ESA 18-24 prognosis group will now be mandated to you using the usual process from Jobcentre Plus.

11. You should follow current Work Programme and ESF guidance whilst you are working with these participants.

12. We will contact you soon with further information regarding MI and the content and timing of the checks which will be performed by our Contract Monitoring Officers.

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 Programmes Division Enquiries Team