

The Work Programme National Partnership Forum - Thursday 6 September 2012

Chair – Richard Aitken-Davies

Attendees

Please see attached list.

Formal Opening of the Work Programme National Partnership Forum

Richard Aitken-Davies formally opened the Work Programme Partnership Forum and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Work Programme Performance and General Update

Alan Cave outlined that he had met with the new Minister Mark Hoban and that Minister was eager to meet with DWP officials and providers. Tribute was paid to the previous Minister Chris Grayling for the work he had done in paving the way for the delivery of the Work programme.

PRaP validation

A workshop took place in August between DWP and providers to look at the most pressing issues. Task and finish groups have been set up to focus on those areas requiring resolution and outcomes will be fed back to the forum as soon as resolutions have been put in place.

DWP are to hold a workshop with providers in September to focus on performance, delivery models and changes to conditionality. The workshop will discuss the issue of JSA and ESA volumes and the expected increase as part of the mandating of ESA customers to the Work Programme. Discussions will be held between DWP and providers to ensure increased volumes will be accommodated effectively.

A further meeting of the National Partnership Forum will be held in October to discuss updated business plans, flight paths and financial models.

This additional forum will also provide the chair of the forum to provide feedback on his meetings with a selection of providers and his discussions with them on their views on performance issues.

DWP Mystery shopping exercise

Representative from DWP Labour Market Strategy updated the forum on a mystery shopping exercise held to check on the progress of the Youth Contract Wage Incentive. The forum was encouraged to hear that on the whole providers were performing well outlining the initiative to employers and the advantages of the scheme.

Providers said that they would take this away and feed back to their organisations.

Cross Contract Package Area transfers

DWP updated providers on the outcomes of advice received outlining the position.

Open Forum

Providers were encouraged with the current progress being made on issues that had previously caused concern. Providers remaining concern was around pre-Work Programme initiatives that were impacting on referrals to the programme.

Work Programme Partnership Forum

Work Programme and Specialist Employment and Mental Health Working Group

The chair of the working group attended the forum and outlined the progress made on this issue. The group thanked providers for their help in developing the toolkit which will assist provider advisors when working with participants with specialist employment and mental health issues.

National Operations Forum

The forum were updated on the progress of Special Interest Groups, Task and Finish Groups and Working Groups discussed at the National Operations Forum held in August. The groups were asked to provide a comprehensive update by means of supporting paperwork to the next National Partnership Forum in December.

Future meetings of the National Work Programme Partnership Forum

Views were sought from around the table on future ways of working. In the spirit of partnership working representatives from the provider community were asked to define the Partnership Forum agenda in December with DWP undertaking secretariat duties.

Formal closing of the Work Programme Partnership Forum

Richard Aitken-Davies thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Forum.

Future Partnership Forum Meeting Dates for 2012

- Thursday 15th October 2012, 10.45 – 13.00, Room 3.42 Caxton House, London
- Thursday 13th December 2012, 11.00 – 13.30, Room 1.25/1.26 Caxton House, London
- Wednesday 6th March 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room, Five Ways House, Birmingham.
- Wednesday 5th June 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room Five Ways House, Birmingham.
- Wednesday 4th September 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Bentley Room Five Ways House, Birmingham.
- Wednesday 4th December 2013, 11.00 – 13.30, Venue to be confirmed.

Membership of the Work Programme National Partnership Forum

A4E	Rehab Group
Avanta	Seetec
Interserve Working Futures	Serco
CDG	Working Links
EOS	Employment Related Services Association (ERSA)
ESG Group	DWP Contracted Customer Services Directorate (CCSD)
G4S	DWP Work Programmes Division
Ingeus UK Ltd	DWP Labour Market and Conditionality Directorate
JHP Group Ltd	DWP Work Programme Provision Group

	Management
MAXIMUS	DWP Account Management
Newcastle College (Intraining)	DWP Provision Performance and Controls Division (PPCD)
Pertemps People Development Group	DWP Professional Services
Prospects Services Ltd	Specialist Employment and Mental Health Wellbeing Group
Reed in Partnership	

NB names of some DWP and Provider representatives have been removed as disclosure would breach one or more of the data protection principles.