

# Department for Work and Pensions

## Work Programme Live Running Memo

**To:** Work Programme Providers

**From:** Work Programmes Division

**Memo Serial Number:** 118

**Date:** 4 June 2013

**Subject:** National Rollout of the Benefit Cap

**Action:** For Information and action

**Timing:** Immediate

### Background

DWP have already informed you that from April 2013 a phased rollout approach was being implemented to introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive.

We have now reached the next stage of implementation and National rollout will start in July'13 and be completed by the end of September'13.

As previously advised, the level of the benefit cap will be set at £500 a week for couples/ lone parents and at £350 a week for single adult households.

Claimants who may potentially be capped (based on their current circumstances) will have been contacted via letter.

This memo is to inform you of the changes.

### Summary and action

DWP advised you on the 23 January 2013 that Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey Local Authorities would be the first to start to apply the benefit cap from 15 April 2013 as part of a phased rollout.

In line with existing plans, the remaining Local Authorities will apply the benefit cap from 15 July 2013 with all households identified being capped by the end of September 2013.

The National Implementation will be managed over a 10 week period and will be split into two tranches:

- Tranche 1: will include all Local Authorities with 275 households or fewer to be capped, and will commence from 15 July 2013;
- Tranche 2: will include all Local Authorities with 276 or more households to be capped, and is likely to commence from the 12 August 2013. (Please note: some flexibility may apply to this date depending on the progress of Tranche 1).

The attached annex provides a breakdown of the Local Authorities that will be included in each tranche based on the latest scan of households affected by the cap. The tranche which a Local Authority will fall in to is based upon this scan, and as such will not change even if numbers of potentially affected households change between now and July 2013.

The priority remains to support households into work, and towards a stable and sustainable working lifestyle. Therefore, it is your responsibility to continue to work intensively with participants to enable them to find employment.

If you receive queries from a participant relating to the benefit cap you must refer them back to Jobcentre Plus, the Benefit Cap helpline or their Local Authority.

## **Annex**

[Annex – breakdown of tranches](#)

## **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**