

# 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:** 151

**Date:** 28 April 2014

**Subject:** Change in Lone Parent Conditionality from 28 April 2014

**Action:** For Information and Action

**Timing:** Immediate

### Background

The Department believes that the current stepped increase in support offered to lone parents makes sense, but more could be done to support most lone parents with a youngest child aged 3 or 4 to return to work.

It has been decided that from 28 April 2014 a lone parent whose youngest child is aged 3 – 4 years old may volunteer to join the Work Programme; however upon referral their attendance will become **mandatory**.

These changes support the Government's aim of delivering a welfare system that recognises work as the primary route out of poverty, and reduces the number of children in workless households.

### Summary and Action

From 28 April 2014 if you receive a referral for a lone parent who has a child aged 3 -4 years of age you will have the freedom to mandate them to a work related activity should you deem it necessary.

### Referrals

It has not been possible to create a new opportunity type on LMS for this participant group however it is anticipated that the number of referrals are likely to be very low.

If you do receive a referral from a lone parent who falls in to this category however you will need to check the Action Plan to see if they are a mandatory or voluntary participant.

Those lone parents who are already participating in the Work Programme when the changes come into force on 28 April 2014 will remain so in a voluntary capacity.

## **Mandation**

If you decide to mandate a lone parent on Income Support you must use an ESA/ IS Lone Parent MAN – see attached examples.

When mandating lone parents to a mandatory activity you must ensure that the activity that they are being asked to undertake is reasonable in their circumstances.

Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 3 or 4 who were referred to the Work Programme **before 28 April 2014** continue to attend as **voluntary** participants. Lone parents in this circumstance cannot be sanctioned for not participating in the Work Programme.

Work Programme Provider Guidance has been updated and further details can be found in chapters 2, 3a, 6 and 7

## **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**