Help to Work – Information Briefing

On 30 September, George Osborne announced plans for the 'Help to Work' scheme for JSA claimants who had completed two years on the Work Programme without finding sustained employment.

NCVO had a meeting with DWP and Treasury officials on 10 October to get a more detailed picture of the planned programme.

Overview

- To be launched in April 2014
- Expected to have 200,000 service users in the first year
- Expected to cost in the region of £300 million
- The Programme is mandatory and backed up by sanctions
  - Service users can be referred for sanction in case of non-compliance
  - Four week sanction for first offence, 12 week sanction for subsequent non-compliance
- The scheme is open only to JSA claimants who have completed two years on the Work Programme

How Help to Work works

- Job Centre Plus advisors will assess all Work Programme returners.
- Based on their assessment will be selected for **one of three** routes:
  - Service users to be placed on Mandatory Intervention Regime (MIR)
  - Service users to be sent to Community Work Placement (CWP)
  - Service users referred for Daily JCP sign-ins

Mandatory Intervention Regime

- Launched June 2013 to accommodate all Work Programme returners
- MIR is designed for service users who have been **assessed as having multiple or complex barriers**
- Service users will be allocated one JCP advisor
- JCP advisor will refer service user to appropriate provisions
- JCP Managers will have access to Flexible Support Fund to bring in specialist services wither on spot-purchase or contracted basis

Community Work Placement

General Information

- Release of Invitation to Tender to be CWP Prime planned release at the end of this month
- If service user remains unemployed after six month placement, referred to MIR
- Invitation to Tender to be Prime contractor planned for release at the end of October 2013

Which service user will be referred to CWP?

- CWP intended for service users whose **only barrier** to work is a lack of work experience

Structure

- Placements will be administered through one Prime contractor per area
    - Area will be the same as Work Programme Contract Package Area (CPA)
    - Work Programme Primes in that CPA will be eligible to be Community Work Placement primes
- Placements will be six months long and happen alongside provider assisted job search
- Primes will be expected to create and maintain a supply chain of private companies and charities willing to provide placements
- CWP will be more prescriptive that Work Programme. Primes expected to 'place' service user within a few days of referral.
- There will be closer monitoring of supply chain relationships

Payment model

- DWP are confident that payment model will prevent 'parking'
- Not a pure Payment by Results model – but a mixed model
    - Fee for initial placement
    - Fee for completion of placement (either end of 6 months or employment)
    - Fee for job outcome

- Payments to charities who provide placements will depend on contract negotiated with Prime
- DWP have assured NCVO that charities who face criticism for offering placement will be fully supported by the department

JCP Daily Sign-Ins

- Intended for services user whose only barrier to work has been assessed as being a lack of motivation
- Strict regime is designed to find them employment quickly
- If after three months service user remains unemployed, is referred to MIR.