

## **Appendix 2: DWP Work & Health Programme**

Central Government has agreed to devolve the Work and Health Programme to London (and Manchester). There are 4 sub-regions within London who are leading procurement and management of the programme. London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) has recently been confirmed as a partner in Central London Forward (CLF). The programme is being commissioned by Corporation of London (CoL) on behalf of CLF. Provision is intended to support people with mental and physical health issues into work and employment. Economic Development & Public Health are working jointly on LBTH involvement with the programme.

### Programme Summary:

- Total value of funding to London is in the region of £135m.
- The programme will run for 5 years with an option to extend by a further 2 years.
- DWP funding for Central London is £29m with European Social Fund (ESF) match, taking the total funding package to £53m.
- CLF will support between 20,000-22,000 people across Central London with employment and health support.
- The devolved programme will be qualitatively different from the national Work and Health Programme and, through improved local accountability and leadership, will provide greater opportunities for local investment, integration and innovation.

### Client groups

- Participants will be drawn from the following groups
  - Health and disability: 75% of caseload, two third of which will be claiming job seekers allowance (JSA), one third will be claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and in the Work-related activity group (WRAG). These individuals will be referred on voluntary basis.
  - Long Term Unemployed (> 2 years): 17% of caseload. These individuals will be mandated to elements of the programme
  - Early entrant: 8% of caseload. Includes individuals such as, care-leaves, ex-offenders, ex-carers, refugees, ex armed forces personnel. These individuals will be referred on a voluntary basis

### Programme design

- Claimants will spend 15 months on the programme and will be tracked for a further 6 months to capture any job outcomes, and provide in-work support.
- All referrals to the programme will be made via a Jobcentre Plus (JCP) Work Coach.
- Approach has been co-designed with boroughs and local health partners and the specification will include the preferred options for integrating the Work and Health Programme with local services.

### Procurement process and governance

- Procurement process went live at the beginning of March 2017, with a view to the programme going live by March 2018.
- Competitive dialogue phase – from April 2017
- Current governance arrangements include the CLF Board, Decision Panel, Advisory Board and Task and Finish Groups.
- Will set up additional Work and Health Programme and Employment and Skills Boards.

### Considerations

Whilst being commissioned by CoL on behalf of Central London Forward there are concerns that there is little real influence that partner boroughs can exert over the delivery mechanisms in order to reflect local priorities, and that it will effectively remain a relationship between DWP (JCP) and the chosen provider.

CLF staff are currently drafting the accompanying ESF bid for co-financing.

#### *Issues yet to be resolved:*

- General eligibility criteria and assessment methodology
- Potential conflict with existing JCP provision;
- Referral and cross referral processes - JCP will be the main referral agent to the Provider and will be the “gate keeper” for all referrals - which means that an agreement will have to be reached as to how local referrals are “approved” by JCP.
- Local providers and how they link in – the chosen Provider will be responsible for securing their local sub-contractors.
- Securing clarity on double counting issues created with other ESF Programmes

Growth & Economic Development has a new member of staff starting work with us on April 4<sup>th</sup> to manage cross borough relationships and so we will be better resource to engage with the tender evaluation panel, and potentially shape the programme during the competitive dialogue stage of the procurement. She will need to liaise closely with Public Health.