

Local Employment Partnerships Extension

8 April 2009

Dear Provider,

We wrote to you on 20 May 2008 to ask you to work with us on Local Employment Partnership (LEP) to operate as a single system engaging with employers to provide additional work opportunities and focussed support for our most disadvantaged customers. We are doing well so far and, as a result of our joint efforts, we are pleased to tell you that by end-February 2009, over 130,000 LEP job outcomes had been achieved nationally. DWP providers have contributed 33,175 (25%) of these. This is an excellent achievement and a real reflection of effective local partnership between us.

We are writing to tell you about changes we are making to the LEP approach this month to respond to the challenges from the economic slowdown. Alongside our original target groups of those most at risk of being overlooked in the labour market we will now include the newly unemployed. The focus of our efforts will be on extending our employer engagement relationship, targeting growth sectors and public sector employers, including their sub-contractors.

The aim is to achieve 200,000 LEP job outcomes over the next 12 months. From the start of April, all LEP Partnership agreements and LEP Employer agreements will include all of our Priority Group 3 customers (claiming JSA for under 6 months) and Priority Group 4's (unemployed customers not claiming benefits), as well as those Priority Group 5's (employed customers) who are under threat or notice of redundancy.

Jobcentre Plus is currently cascading information about the new challenges and changes internally to staff. We are putting in place extra people including a LEP Champion in each district to focus on the end-to-end LEP process, to be a conduit of information, and to forge the working links with all of our key stakeholders.

We are confident of your continued support to meet the new challenges, and maximise support for our customers, and our LEP Champions will be in touch with you to engage your expertise, and to discuss what more can be done.

Yours sincerely

Alan Cave
WWEG Delivery Director

David Smith
DWP Commercial Director

Matthew Nicholas
Jobcentre Plus Director Employers and Stakeholders