

Merged p2w & p2wLinkUP – PQQ - Q & A Log 26 November 2009

Question Number	Question / Request for information	Answer / Outcome	Subject Area	On Web
1	Are category D prisoners who are released on licence eligible for the provision, as they will be actively seeking work but will not be on any form of allowance or benefits?	This answer has been revised since publishing on 28/10, please refer to Q86.	Policy	28/10/09 revised 23/11/09
2	Some organisations consider the homeless category of customers to be the hardest to help, and it takes more time to work with them to move them forward, therefore is this contract really going to help this customer group?	Please also refer to Q85. We appreciate that the homeless customer group is amongst the hardest to help, however it is essential that we work with them and move them closer to the labour market. We would expect providers to work with specialist housing agencies, charities and local authorities in the locality to help gain stable accommodation as the first steps before moving into labour market activity.	Policy	28/10/09 revised 26/11/09
3	Is self-employment a valid job outcome for this provision?	Yes, provided the customer is trading independently for at least 16 hours per week and no longer claiming benefits after 13 weeks as per the job outcome definition. If whilst on the programme the customer is referred to mainstream provision, for example, flexible New Deal, they can undertake test trading as part of this provision – but the job outcome for the merged programme/pilot provision, will still only be valid, as described above, when trading independently.	Policy	28/10/09
4	The implementation period appears to be very short at 9 weeks, especially given the inherent problems of TUPE regulations.	We appreciate that the timescales are very short; DWP will facilitate an exchange of information for the ItT stage.	TUPE	28/10/09
5	What happens in a situation where a customer reaches the end of their twelve months on merged provision, but they are in full time education?	The new merged provision is only able to fund any individual for 12 months. If at the end of 12 months the customer has not found work, they must be taken off the caseload and referred to the most appropriate source for any further help, which may include a Jobcentre Plus adviser. There is no reason why the customer would not be able to continue with their full time education when they have come off the merged programme.	Policy	28/10/09

6	Are there any events planned for organisations who want to become sub-contractors for this provision?	If DWP is to facilitate additional support, for example a one off event or perhaps something web based DWP need to be clear that the best use of your time is made, add value to the competition process and make best use of public money. Responses were invited via the Q&A address for close Monday 2 nd November to gauge if there is sufficient interest in this type of support.	Project	28/10/09
7	If an organisation submits a PQQ as a PRIME provider and is unsuccessful, are they allowed to be a sub-contractor to one of the organisations who are successful at the PQQ stage?	Yes.	Procurement	28/10/09
8	Will DWP provide a list of organisations attending these events?	A list of those organisations who expressed an interest in attending was published on the DWP website on the 22/10/09.	Procurement	28/10/09
9	Work is ongoing with DAT's and local partnerships therefore are there any expectations that successful organisations will link in to these organisations?	At the Invitation to Tender stage we expect bidders to demonstrate the links they have with appropriate organisations in the locality. Sub-Regional partnerships are considering providing additional funding in London and Edinburgh and more information on the additional requirements for this will be available at ItT stage.	Policy	28/10/09
10	How much involvement have customers and service users had in the preparation of the specification?	Extensive consultation was made in the preparation of the Green Paper.	Policy	28/10/09
11	Can you confirm that the two West Midlands Contract Package Areas have now been merged in to one Contract Package Area?	Yes, the West Midlands are now one Contract Package Area.	Project	28/10/09
12	Now that the West Midlands Contract Package Areas have been merged into one large package, will the size of this package be taken into account on the FVRA assessment?	Yes, the size of this package will be taken into account.	Finance	28/10/09
13	Now that Halton is part of the Merseyside Contract Package Area, can you confirm whether it is part of the pilot?	Halton is part of the pilot.	Policy	28/10/09

14	Will the Distance Travelled Framework for this provision link into existing systems/measurement tools?	Please also refer to Question 70. The framework is still under development and there will be more information published at the ItT stage.	Policy	28/10/09
15	What is the reasoning behind the decision to not have training as an outcome?	We value other outcomes, but you will only receive payments for job outcomes, this decision is based on evaluation of the previous p2w & p2wLinkUP contracts and also to make the system simpler for both providers and DWP. This is in line with all other DWP provision. We have attempted to make the contracts more attractive by increasing both the size and duration of the contracts.	Policy	28/10/09
16	Is there a minimum number of hours per week that a participant must work to claim a job outcome?	Yes 16 hours, this is the same as other DWP provision.	Policy	28/10/09
17	Is it possible to claim both the short and sustained job outcome payments for one individual?	Yes and we want to encourage this by continuing to work with the customer and employer to realise sustained outcomes.	Policy	28/10/09
18	What form of evidence will be accepted to claim job outcomes?	Please also refer to question 20. Guidelines regarding evidence requirements will be provided at a later stage.	Policy	28/10/09
19	If a participant is successfully placed and leaves the programme, would they be eligible to join the "Work Choice" programme?	Yes, if appropriate for the customer.	Policy	28/10/09
20	Will DWP accept an "off benefit check" rather than job outcome evidence as on fND?	As with flexible New Deal, providers will be required to collate information to give assurance that the job outcome has been achieved. It is not necessary to submit the collated evidence to DWP other than to justify a claim which has failed the off benefit check (or where a claim is picked up as part of a random DWP check)	Policy	28/10/09
21	Will there be a discretionary fund available for training?	The p2w discretionary fund will no longer be available, as this is currently funded from the under-spend, however the Advisor Discretionary Fund will continue. We are still looking at the possibility of a discretionary fund for the merged and pilot programmes, and more information will be available at the ItT stage.	Policy	28/10/09

22	How will participants who leave the programme after a short period be dealt with?	<p>Please also refer to Q28.</p> <p>It is envisaged that if there has been no contact with the customers on the merged programme for a period of 4 weeks, that the customer should be taken off the caseload and deemed to have left the provision. If the customer returns at a later stage, an assessment must be carried out again to find out the reasons for the disappearance and updated relevant steps based on what has happened need to be incorporated into the Action Plan. The customer should be given the opportunity for a further 12 months on the merged programme to ensure a positive outcome can be achieved. We would not be looking to only offer the balance of 12 months when the customer returns as this may prove too little time to achieve an outcome regarding what has happened to the customer on their time away from the merged programme.</p> <p>Customers in pilot areas who are on the additional support programme will lose their treatment allowance and return to mainstream conditionality. They will not, however, be subject to benefit sanctions.</p> <p>Further detail will be given around this area at ItT stage.</p>	Policy	28/10/09
23	In the Pilot Areas you describe a 30 hour week engagement time. Please expand on this.	It will no longer be a requirement that attendance will be full-time as a matter of course. Attendance and activity should be dependent on the needs and circumstances of the individual, with the aim of building up to 30 hours once the individual reaches a sufficiently stable point in their treatment journey.	Policy	28/10/09
24	<p>If you're selected to be a provider for both flexible New Deal (fND) and the Merged p2w & p2wLinkUP, how will this impact on customers referred to the p2w provision?</p> <p>Can two job outcomes be claimed?</p>	<p>p2w customers are treated separately. fND customers can be referred to p2w if they require the specialist help offered. For example, p2w could form part of the fND training package.</p> <p>A customer mandated to fND will be classed as still on fND whilst participating in a voluntary programme.</p> <p>The provider will be entitled to claim dual payments for job outcomes, as the customer is accessing both types of provision.</p>	Policy	28/10/09

25	Please provide information on the Discretionary Fund?	Please also refer to Q21. The Adviser Discretionary Fund will be available, but more information about the merged programme Discretionary Fund will be provided at the Invitation to Tender stage.	Finance	28/10/09
26	There has been media speculation with regards to a new and incoming Government not signing FND2 contracts. What are your comments on this?	As Civil Servants we can make no comment with regards to what may or may not happen with an incoming Government. In general terms we make risk based decisions based on the status quo and if changes have to be made and we need to share these with bidders/suppliers we will do so.	Project	28/10/09
27	Will there be any means of claiming advance payments from DWP?	No. Not for the Prime Contractor, however, arrangements for making payments to sub contractors are a decision for the Prime and for sub contractors to negotiate.		28/10/09
28	Customers are expected to be on the Merged p2w & p2w LinkUP provision for twelve months. Can a customer attend for six months, leave and then come back on?	Please see the response at question 22.	Policy	28/10/09
29	If a provider is sent an inappropriate referral will this be classed as a start?	No – starts are those customers appropriate for the provision following assessment and taken onto the caseload To help avoid such a referral the provider's marketing strategy needs to be clear, with links in place to move customers onto the right provision. The 70% service fee is based on managing the process and appropriate caseloads based on the locality.	Policy	28/10/09
30	During the assessment process will providers be scored on their relationships with fND providers?	Not exclusively on relationships with fND providers, but relationships with all stakeholders who can bring value to the delivery of the provision.	Procurement	28/10/09
31	Have ESF Compliance costs been factored into the budgets for each package area?	There will be no additional money in ESF funded package areas to cover compliance with ESF requirements	Policy	28/10/09
32	As a current provider of p2w, how much does this provision experience count towards delivering the Merged p2w & p2w LinkUP?	PQQ assessment is based on the same criteria for all bidders, previous performance is taken into account but this can be any contract performance including non DWP.	Procurement	28/10/09

33	Will the Discretionary Fund still exist with the Merged p2w & p2w Link UP?	Please also refer to Q21 & Q25. Under the second stage ItT submission, reference is made to this as 'other participant costs.' These will need to be considered if you are invited to submit financial information at the ItT stage.	Finance	28/10/09
34	The combination of geographical areas within the Contract Package Areas requires careful consideration of finance. Do providers need to submit information on financial reserves?	Working capital requirements are assessed at the ITT stage, ensuring a bidder has sufficient financial reserves to meet any working capital requirements during the contract life. The idea of submitting financial information at the PQQ Stage is to make providers think about their status and capability i.e. to deliver in a certain Contract Package Area as a Prime, or as a Subcontractor, or in Partnership. The idea is not to discourage bidders, but to help providers decide their bidding strategy.	Finance	28/10/09
35	These face-to-face discussions with the DWP Finance Team are very useful, Is there further help available?	Yes. At the ItT stage we will announce dates for further finance surgeries where the DWP Finance Team will help with financial questions on completing the price schedules for the ItT. The purpose of these forums is to improve the quality of the bids submitted.	Finance	28/10/09
36	What is the scoring criterion for the submission of financial information at the PQQ stage?	A 'pass' or a 'fail.' The scoring for the ItT will be announced later in the competition.	Finance	28/10/09
37	Should the bidding organisation factor inflation into their bid?	Bidders should factor inflation into their bid, as the price will be fixed at the point the contract is awarded.	Finance	28/10/09
38	What is the maximum number of customers per caseload?	This is not going to be dictated by DWP – we will be asking bidders to consider the contract package areas and the delivery areas, geography of those areas and the customer need. The number of support workers, the areas they will cover, where they will be based, premises used, peripatetic possibilities and the realistic caseload for each of those support workers will need to form part of the bids along with a rationale based on the above.	Policy	28/10/09
39	Is travel and childcare included?	We are still considering the travel and childcare funding issue and this will be provided at ItT stage.	Policy	28/10/09 revised 26/11/09
40	Is the indicative value exclusive of VAT?	Yes.	Finance	28/10/09

41	Will the FVRA be part of all future PQQ's for DWP?	Yes, we try to anticipate financial risk at the earliest stage possible.	Finance	28/10/09
42	Is the ESF funding only available for 2 years?	ESF funding has been committed and is available for the full 5 years of the merged programme contracts. Separate ESF funding will be available for the pilots for the full two years.	Policy	28/10/09
43	How do we report TUPE costs at the ItT stage?	TUPE is part of the standard pricing template; if TUPE applies you should include the associated costs together with your other assumptions.	Finance	28/10/09
44	The declaration of TUPE information by existing providers could potentially give a competitive advantage to their competitors.	The intention is only to disclose this information at the ItT stage, and organisations are only obliged to give this information two weeks prior to the end of their current contracts. The DWP would like to issue any TUPE information as early as possible but is dependent on current providers supplying the information.	Finance/ Procurement	28/10/09
45	What financial capacity do you need to be successful at the PQQ stage?	There is no financial capacity threshold to be successful at the PQQ stage. If an organisation is successful at the PQQ stage a letter confirming an organisation has passed through the PQQ stage will be sent, and an organisations financial capacity figure is supplied. This figure is not a ceiling to limit bids from organisations, but if the total of contracts being bid for by one organisation exceeds this threshold, the DWP will seek further evidence the organisation can manage all these contracts, both from delivery and financial perspectives.	Finance	28/10/09
46	If you are bidding as a consortium is it the lead organisations annual turnover or the consortiums, that is used to establish if the organisation is big enough?	If members of a consortium are bidding as equal partners, all the consortium members annual turnover will be considered not just the leads.	Finance	28/10/09
47	The unit price is different in some of the contract packages, therefore can this price change?	There are different costs in different regions for organisations so this is reflected in different unit costs, the DWP does not expect these unit prices to change, but will reserve the right to do so.	Finance	28/10/09
48	Will the budget increase if the volumes are increased?	No, if the volumes change the price per unit remains the same, but this where tolerances would apply.	Finance	28/10/09

49	Where would the funding come from in instances where the volumes exceeded the budget for the Contract Package Area?	Funds would be vired across from other Contract Package Areas.	Policy	28/10/09
50	How will bidders gain an understanding of the implications of TUPE on their cost & staffing assumptions?	DWP advise bidders to research and seek their own legal /financial advice on TUPE implications. DWP will facilitate an exchange of TUPE information for the ItT stage.	Procurement	28/10/09
51	Who is responsible for managing the randomly assigned control group?	This will be Jobcentre Plus responsibility.	Policy	28/10/09
52	Where does the funding for the provision come from?	The programme is funded through a combination of DWP and ESF money supplemented through co-commissioning within London and Edinburgh. More information around the co-commissioning in these areas will be provided at ItT stage.	Policy	28/10/09 revised 26/11/09
53	What were the main lessons learned from the evaluation of p2w and p2w LinkUP?	The main points learned were that there is a significant overlap of barriers and no advantage to separating the groups. The support and help needed and the links with specialist organisations in the locality are the same for both p2w and p2wLinkUP customers. There has been success in moving these customer groups nearer to the labour market and into work and therefore the new contracts can be brought in line with other DWP provision focusing on job outcomes.	Policy	28/10/09
54	Does the homeless category include customers living in hostels?	Please also refer to Q85. Yes it does. More information regarding definitions and scenarios will be provided in the ItT	Policy	28/10/09
55	Some Contract Package Areas contain pilots, are these expected to be run independently of the new merged programme?	Although we are not buying the pilots separately, they are funded separately and have their own specification. Prime contractors will need to describe in the ItT bids how they intend to staff and run both elements of the contracts (merged and pilots) in line with the specifications. ESF funding has been included in the pilot funding which dictates there must be some element of direct delivery.	Policy	28/10/09

56	What happens to the pilot after it has been evaluated?	The provision is currently in the reform bill. After 2 years we have 6 months to report the findings and it is then up to Parliament to decide what happens after that.	Policy	28/10/09
57	If a customer moves from the pilot to the new merged programme would that be counted as an outcome?	If the customer has been on the pilot for 12 months, it is possible for them to voluntarily move to the merged programme to continue to receive support back into work. The action plan would need to take into account the steps the customer had taken whilst on the pilot and how this can be built upon. The only paid outcomes are jobs and sustained jobs.	Policy	28/10/09
58	If a participant starts on the pilot provision and then moves to the merged programme, do they start with 12 months available time on the provision?	Yes, but as stated in Q57, we would expect the experience of the customers time on the pilot to be built upon and relevant steps to be given towards achieving a job.	Policy	28/10/09
59	Is this provision in scope for Ofsted/Estyn inspection?	This provision is currently not in scope for inspection as it is not providing training; however Ofsted/Estyn could change their policy on this.	Policy	28/10/09
60	Is the funding split the same for the pilot as it is for the merged programme?	Yes, 70% delivery payment, 20% short job outcome and 10% sustained job outcome.	Policy	28/10/09
61	Will DWP be expecting access to vacancies and links to employers in bids submitted?	At ItT stage we would expect organisations to demonstrate their links to key employers in the locality and how they intend to work further with suitable employers and access vacancies	Policy	28/10/09
62	Are SL2's required with the new Provider Referral and Payments (PRaP) system?	No.	Policy	28/10/09
63	Is there a minimum definition of what "on programme" means for this provision and will the customer have to complete timesheets?	The merged programme has been designed to be full time for the customer – which is how the 30 hours per week was arrived at. We would expect that most of the actual activity would take place away from the provider and therefore timesheets for the merged programme/pilots will not be necessary. HOWEVER, we would expect the action plans and rehabilitation plans to clearly show the steps the customer is given to achieve on a weekly basis – this may be for example: attending training, counselling sessions, jobsearch activities to make up the 30 hours.	Policy	28/10/09

64	Will there be any soft outcomes on this provision e.g. training?	No. However we recognise that training can be a valuable step to move the customer closer to the labour market and would therefore anticipate such actions to be recorded on action plans and measured via the distance travelled tool	Policy	28/10/09
65	Are there likely to be any issues around double counting outcomes for ESF?	No.	Policy	28/10/09
66	30 hours per week participation on the merged programme is a lot for this customer group, is this realistic?	30hours per week has been the requirement in the current p2w and p2wLinkUP programmes. This needs to be a pragmatic approach and very much taken with the individual needs of the customer. This support begins with activity like helping to set up bank accounts, getting onto a housing list etc .but then needs to be expanded to take into account job goals and aspirations and training /support required to achieve that , It is envisaged the 30 hours will build up during the time on provision All activity and steps MUST be recorded on the Action Plan We would expect the support worker to know exactly what the customer is doing in any given week and this to be recorded. This will also help with continuity – for example – sickness/absences of support workers.	Policy	28/10/09
67	Is there anything specifically in the provision for homeless people?	We recognise that the homeless are difficult to help; we need to tackle their issues first and support them by linking in to appropriate local organisations that can provide housing solutions and gain stability to move them closer to the labour market.	Policy	28/10/09
68	What are the likely sanctions for not complying with the on programme 30 hour definition in the pilots?	Following changes in the Welfare Reform Bill the response regarding sanctions published on 28/10 is no longer applicable. (The 30 hour definition is not sanctionable; however failure to complete or comply with specific steps on the rehabilitation plan will be, as the intention is to move towards accessing treatment and taking steps towards a return to work) It will no longer be a requirement that attendance will be full-time as a matter of course. Attendance and activity should be dependent on the needs and circumstances of the individual, with the aim of building up to 30 hours once the individual reaches a sufficiently stable point in their treatment journey Sanctions are not therefore applicable in this instance	Policy	28/10/09

69	Would someone who relapses be sanctioned?	Following the recent policy change, If a relapse is prolonged and the problem drug use is a barrier to work, then they now could be referred to a series of substance related assessments and a motivational programme which are sanctionable. More information on this new process for the pilots will be available in the ItT	Policy	28/10/09 revised 26/11/09
70	When will the details of how distance travelled will be measured be released?	This will be part of the ItT documents; we are currently developing the distance travelled tool. There has been consultation with treatment agencies during the development.	Policy	28/10/09
71	What is the length of In-work Support	26 weeks and this includes liaison with employers and support for customers during this time.	Policy	28/10/09
72	Please can you provide more information on the completion of ESF timesheets; customer and delivery staff attendance sheets? Likewise, what evidence will be required for the claiming of job outcomes?	ESF is now delivered through co-financing arrangements. Under these arrangements the provider is paid as per any other provision against the payment/pricing requirements set out in the contract. DWP/Jobcentre Plus as the Co-Financing Organisation has to complete timesheets etc rather than the delivery provider. No additional evidence requirements are needed to claim job outcomes for ESF purposes	Policy	28/10/09
73	At what point does the security plan have to be completed	A draft security plan will have to be provided at Invitation to Tender stage. The final version of the plan is required within 20 days of contract signing.	Procurement	28/10/09
74	What percentages of the overall score at ItT stage will apply to Quality and Price	Quality 70% Price 30%	Procurement	28/10/09
75	DWP will facilitate the exchange of information between incoming and outgoing providers. What will be the format for this? ERSA HR Managers have devised a spread sheet for collecting this type of information. Would you consider using this format?	We will submit this spreadsheet to our TUPE experts so they can consider if the format is appropriate and suitable for our needs.	Procurement	28/10/09
76	Could the DWP website be used to enable sub contractors to advertise their availability and interest to potential Prime Providers, and for Primes to indicate opportunities for sub contracting?	See question 6	Procurement	28/10/09

77	Does the proportion of direct delivery change depending on the ESF coverage, for example areas attracting convergence or transitional funding?	Direct delivery is a requirement for Contract Package Areas within England as these are partially funded through ESF. The level of direct delivery is not proportional.	Procurement	28/10/09
78	Will the dates for the ItT event(s) be published and will potential sub contractors be able attend?	It is currently planned to hold an ItT event during week commencing 22/02/10. The event will be specifically aimed at short listed bidders. A list of short listed bidders and the ItT specification will be published on the internet to enable potential sub contractors to make contact with short listed bidders.	Procurement	28/10/09
79	The Revised West Midland contract package area is now very large. Has previous experience highlighted of such a geographically large package area any specific best practices or preferred approaches to cover such a large area – for example delivery via a Prime Contractor/Subcontractor approach or via a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)?	It is for bidders to make their own business decision about which approach works best for them within each contract package area.	Procurement	28/10/09
80	How much money has been ringfenced across each contract package?	Following recent changes (Q11 and Q13) the value of all the contract packages are to be reviewed. The revised figures will be published at ItT stage.	Project	26/11/09
81	Will DWP be releasing the merged Progress to work service PQQ as a word document? Or do DWP want bidders to convert it from the PDF?	Yes, we have updated the website and the document is now available as a word document.	Procurement	26/11/09
82	If a customer moves onto an ILM / into supported employment, will the provider be able to claim the short and sustained outcome?	A provider will be able to make a claim for a customer entering supported employment providing that the outcome criteria for short and sustained job outcome are met. Short Job Outcome: Minimum 16 hours per week, continuous employment that has lasted 13 weeks. Sustained Job Outcome: Minimum of 16 hours per week, in employment for at least 26 weeks out of 30 (breaks in employment totalling 4 weeks or less are acceptable). See also para 10.3.2 of PQQ spec.	Policy	26/11/09
83	Will the documents relating to the Merged Programme Based on progress2work and progress2work LinkUp and 2010 Problem Drug Users Employment Support Pilot Tender Competition be available after the closing date?	Please note that following the final date for submission of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (03 December 2009), documents relating to the above tender competition will be available via a link on the “Supplying DWP, What We Buy, Welfare to Work Services” page of the DWP Website. See link below http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/	Procurement	26/11/09

84	<p>Will prospective bidders be actively encouraged to provide access to their programmes, in part, from Criminal justice social work offices? As this would assist delivery to those most in need and provide a one stop shop approach to accessing services.</p> <p>Will DWP ensure that the bidders or winners of those contracts work closely with criminal justice services?</p>	<p>We expect customers will be referred to the new merged programme from a variety of sources including Criminal Justice services and this forms part of the specification.</p> <p>At the Invitation to Tender stage we expect bidders to demonstrate the links they have with all appropriate organisations in the locality.</p>	Policy	26/11/09
85	<p>For eligibility for the merged programme can you clarify the definition of “homeless”?</p>	<p>The merged programme will be open to those customers who are homeless, or at reasonable risk of homelessness, and for whom this is a significant barrier to employment (see also Q54).</p> <p>Homeless, or reasonable risk of homelessness, will be defined as individuals in the following (or comparable) circumstances: sleeping rough; sleeping on friends' floors; living in squats; in temporary accommodation; hostel residents, or in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.</p>	Policy	26/11/09
86	<p>The current specification states that customers have to be claiming one of the eligible benefits to get help through the new merged programme. What about those customers who have chosen not to make a claim to benefit or not yet in a position to do so, for example homeless of offenders?</p>	<p>Please refer to Q1.</p> <p>Following further consideration the eligibility for the merged programme is to be extended to include those claiming, or eligible to claim but not currently in receipt of’ the benefits listed in the PQQ specification. This would therefore include homeless and offenders recently released from custody who would be eligible for benefit but who have not yet claimed.</p>	Policy	26/11/09
87	<p>The Independent Safeguard Authority (ISA) will require an individual to be drug-free for a period of time (yet to be established) but predicted to be two years out of treatment or without a positive drug test. If someone applies for ISA for employment within this timescale they could be rejected (and possibly barred). How will this be handled within the merged programme?</p>	<p>Home Office officials have advised us that the ISA’s risk assessment procedures should ensure that only those who pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults will be barred from employment that involves working with these groups. Therefore the scheme aims to protect children and vulnerable adults rather than barring all ex-offenders or recovering drug users from working per se.</p> <p>The scheme will not exclude all ex-service users from working with vulnerable adults and children through a blanket barring, but make decisions on a case by case basis. The ISA will assess the suitability of recovering drug users to work with children and vulnerable adults based on a proportionate assessment of risk using evidence of behaviours from a range of sources. It should be noted that, whilst drug use and drug offences are counted as a risk factors, they will not on their own result in an individual automatically being barred.</p> <p>It is not therefore envisaged that the ISA scheme will pose a significant barrier to employment for customers in the merged programme in the vast majority of cases nor, for example, that these individuals automatically be barred from working in the drug treatment sector itself should such employment opportunities present themselves.”</p>	Policy	26/11/09

88	Are the answers already published affected by the recent changes in policy?	Yes, we would advise suppliers to revisit the questions and answers for Q1, Q2, Q5, Q21, Q22, Q63, Q68 and Q69. Also responses to Q 39 and 52 have been updated. All other answers are as published 28/10/09 (shaded for ease of reference). Questions 80 to 88 are new questions	Procurement	26/11/09
89	As a Special Purpose Vehicle, do organisations need to put each of their unique ID's in Part 1 of the PQQ question 1.10, or apply for a new unique ID?	The SPV will have to become accredited in its own right prior to contract award. This process can be set in motion if the SPV becomes a preferred bidder. Further help is available on consortia issues from James Jennings Mobile: 07775 772758 E-mail: james@northwoodvalley.co.uk	Procurement	26/11/09
90	What structure should organisations put in to satisfy Part 4 question 4.2 of the PQQ as the SPV is not yet a legal entity and the structures have yet to be formed, what detail is needed?	DWP requires bidding organisations to provide details of the proposed organisation structure for the SPV.	Procurement	26/11/09
91	For Part 4 question 4.6 if the SPV has yet to be fully formed and has no Executive directors, what information do organisations put here?	DWP requires bidding organisations to provide details of the proposed Executive Directors for the SPV.	Procurement	26/11/09
92	In PQQ Part 7 question 7.1 – Does the SPV provide 6 contracts from each member or do they provide a selection from contracts held across all members?	DWP require information on 6 contracts only at this stage. It is for you to decide which of the partner organisations contracts to include.	Procurement	26/11/09
93	In PQQ Part 7 questions 7.5, 7.6 & 7.7 How do these relate to an SPV? Does each member agency have to provide details and examples or can it be just one example?	DWP require information drawn from the best experience of organisations within the SPV. It is for you to decide which of the partner organisations examples illustrate your best practice and decide which examples to include.	Procurement	26/11/09
94	In PQQ Part 8 Quality - as the SPV is not yet formed what information is required and do organisations need each member of the SPV to provide details or will one member's processes etc be sufficient?	DWP requires the SPV to provide details of their proposed quality systems, examples to demonstrate best practice, and evidence of each of the organisations existing quality standards/inspections.	Procurement	26/11/09
95	Part 7 annex 1 does this have to be all member agency contracts or a selection from the members of the proposed SPV?	DWP require information on 6 contracts only at this stage. It is for you to decide which of the partner organisations contracts to include.	Procurement	26/11/09

96	Financial Capacity & Capability Risk Assessment form Part 4 If submitting as an SPV, do we need to submit each of the members financial information or could it be aggregated and submitted as the SPV is not yet formed?	Each member of the SPV needs to submit the financial documents required.	Finance	26/11/09
97	Part 4 Does the financial information submitted require a header of the SPV?	Accounts are required from each member of the SPV, plus the form need to be completed in relation to the SPV.	Finance	26/11/09
98	Part 5 When submitting as an SPV would it need to be the total number of persons employed by all organisations involved in the SPV?	The members need to supply the total number of employees employed by all the members of the SPV.	Finance	26/11/09