

**Specialist Disability Employment Programme**  
**Provider Sub-Group Meeting**  
**Novotel Sheffield**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	
Toni Percival	DWP CEP Head of Provision Sourcing	
Tony Burns	DWP SDEP Project Manager	
Steve Liptrot	DWP CEP	
Andy Wilson	DWP SDEP Deputy Project Manager	
Simon Shimmens	DWP	
Malcolm Gentle	DWP SDEP Project	
Karen Wood	DWP Commercial Directorate	
Lynette Higgins	DWP CEP	
Alistair Kerr	Momentum Scotland	
Huw Davies	BASE	
Rob Bowley	RBLI	
Malcolm Goldsby	Shaw Trust	
Matthew Lester	Papworth Trust	
Philip Connolly	RNIB	
Mark Gibson	BTCV	
Stephen Dering	Dering	
Steve Mason	A4e	
Tony Adamson	Mencap	
Andrew Wilson	Work Directions	
Nick Bailey	LSC	
Claire Spender	BSL Interpreters	
Van Holtom	BSL Interpreters	
<b>Apologies</b>		
Elaine Noad	DEAC	
Jackie Ballard	RNID	
Joe Dowd	Workforce Plus Team Employability & Skills	
Mark Deal	DEAC	
Roland Sewell	For ERSA	
Liz Rickaby	RBLI	
Nick Bason	Employers forum on disability	
Andrew Forester	Compact	

## **Background**

These notes set out key points discussed at the second meeting of the DWP Specialist Disability Employment Programme Provision Forum Sub-Group.

The Chair outlined the background to the design of this meeting, which had taken into account the current stage of the bidding process for Specialist Disability Employment Programme contracts. It was emphasised that the meeting would focus purely on transition from the old programme to the new programme. Attendees were advised that discussions and information generated during the meeting could be shared openly with others and that views from other organisations would be sought via the internet.

**AP - It was agreed that these notes and any associated documents would be published on the internet.**

## **Transition**

A draft Transition Discussion Paper was issued to delegates for their comments, whilst the Project gave an overview of the document.

### Key Points raised

The Project Team confirmed they will be conducting a more detailed data collection exercise with existing providers to establish the numbers and locations etc of participants currently on programme. Delegates requested that this information is shared on a spreadsheet showing the raw data.

It was acknowledged that Jobcentre Plus (JCP) Disability Employment Advisers (DEA's) will require training on the new programme. The Project Team is working with JCP Learning and Development to ensure processes are put in place to address this.

Project confirmed that Access to Work, Remploy and Residential Training Colleges are not in scope, however the Project Team are working closely with policy colleagues to improve links and processes.

The Specialist Disability Employment Programme is for individuals whose needs cannot be met through Flexible New Deal (FND) or Pathways to Work. DEAs will be involved in the decision making process to determine the most appropriate route for individuals to take.

A concern was raised about the unsettling of existing participants who may be loyal to their current provider.

It was acknowledged that on going appropriate communication support should be ensured for hearing and visually impaired customers.

The group agreed that any advice from Government Actuaries Department (GAD) on stakeholder issues and other pension schemes, possibly delivered through workshops, would be helpful.

Assurances of smooth transition and continuity of participants who are already on training programmes such as Train 2 Gain were requested and acknowledged by the Project Team.

The group concluded that the scenarios within the draft Transition Discussion Paper appeared to be comprehensive and captured a wide range of potential situations. And reassured the group that the Project understood the issues.

It was highlighted that formal responses to Pre Qualification Questionnaire queries regarding such areas as TUPE, Supported places etc. can be found on the Question & Answer Log published on the DWP website.

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what\\_we\\_buy/notice\\_sdep\\_pqq\\_event.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/notice_sdep_pqq_event.pdf).

It was suggested that customer's experiences on Workstep could be presented by DVD and issued to potential bidders at ITT events.

**The next meeting is now provisionally booked for 12 June 2009.**