

Annex 6 - Local Employment Partnerships

Local Employment Partnerships

Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) are a key component of the Government's "In work, better off"; a Green Paper on the next steps to full employment, and were launched in the 2007 budget. They are a key feature of Integrated Employment and Skills, which is being introduced in response to the Leitch review of skills. This puts both customers' and employers' needs at the heart of service delivery.

LEPs are about Jobcentre Plus and partners working with major employers, providers and sector bodies to ensure that disadvantaged customers get the preparation and training that enables them to meet employers' needs and expectations. The aim is to place 250,000 priority customers into LEP jobs by December 2010, and is a genuinely new approach, creating opportunities for people who have been too long overlooked.

All DWP contracted providers are expected to work together in partnership with Jobcentre Plus to deliver the government's objectives with regard to LEPs, and in doing so provide a better service for employers and individual customers.

Upon contract award you will be contacted by Jobcentre Plus and offered a LEP Partnership Agreement. This will enable you to enter into LEP verbal agreements with the employers you work with, therefore avoiding multiple and confusing contacts to employers. Under the Partnership Agreement you will also be copied into all Jobcentre Plus LEP vacancies for your customers, and have access to Jobcentre Plus Local Labour Market Intelligence.

So that progress can be reported, in return you will be expected to provide information to Jobcentre Plus on your customers placed into jobs, either through Jobcentre Plus LEP vacancies or your own employer LEP agreements. We would expect the LEP Partnership Agreement should also apply to your sub contractors, working through your organisation as the prime contractor.

Jobcentre Plus District may require the Contractor to deliver LEP Pre-employment Training (PET) courses as part of their contracted delivery. The actual delivery arrangements for each pre-employment training course will be agreed between the Department for Work and Pensions, the Jobcentre Plus District and the Contractor.

It is expected that the Learning and Skills Council in England, Skills Development Scotland and Skill Build in Wales will cover most LEP PET requirements via their existing provision. However, DWP through its contracted suppliers has given a commitment to fund and deliver LEP PET where, for whatever reason, it cannot be delivered through these other sources.