

Work for Your Benefit PQQ Questions and Answer Log

| Question Reference | Question | Answer |
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| PQQ01 | Should the Work for your Benefits pilots be viewed as the adult version of the Community Task Force? i.e. that the younger age groups (18-25) are unlikely to feature on the Work for your Benefits programmes? | No, should young people reach 2 years unemployed they will be expected to take part in WfYB alongside older people. In addition there are some key differences in the programmes. The emphasis in WfYB is on individually brokered placements based on the needs and aspirations of the individual and placements do not necessarily need to be of community benefit. WfYB is also designed to contain additional employment support and training if necessary. |
| PQQ02 | PART 4 – Contracting Strategy – Has a paragraph explaining DWP’s strategy – is this included in the page count? | The paragraph providing an introduction to the Contracting Strategy supporting WfYB is NOT included within the page count applying to the PQQ |
| PQQ03 | Does the budget allocated for WfYB include the paying of benefit payments to customers? | No – benefit payments are not included in the allocated budget. |
| PQQ04 | What is the cost per head? | There is no calculation for the cost per head. It is up to the Provider to calculate the cost per head when bidding. |
| PQQ05 | What is the funding model? | 50% of the contract is payable as a monthly service fee and 50% is outcome fee. |
| PQQ06 | As DWP do not envisage group based activity being a part of Work for Your Benefits are you ruling it out completely? | Group based activity is not being ruled out for everyone but the programme should be based on the individual customer’s needs and we do not envisage group activity being widely used. |
| PQQ07 | If it is felt that group activity would be best would you look on this favourably? | It wouldn’t be ruled out completely but it would be looked at to see if it met the needs of the customer and the programme specification which emphasises the individual approach. |

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| PQQ08 | 50% of the payment is outcome related – what is an outcome? | An outcome is a job of at least 16 hours per week and continuous employment lasting 13 weeks. The job outcome can be claimed once the 13 weeks of continuous employment have been completed. |
| PQQ09 | The work experience attendance requirement. Are all clients expected to attend for the full time hours? | If reduced hours have been agreed in the Jobseekers Agreement then the client would only be expected to attend for the hours stated on the Jobseekers Agreement |
| PQQ10 | With regard to the requirement to attend for up to 40 hours per week are any problems envisaged with regard to the human rights legislation? | No problems are envisaged as the programme is a supportive employment programme and does not fall within the minimum wage/hours rulings. |
| PQQ11 | How many Prime and sub-contracts are there in each contract package area? | There is one Prime contract per contract package area. The number of sub-contracts will be dependant on the Prime Contractor. |
| PQQ12 | What period are you going to measure the success of the project over? | The evaluation strategy is still being determined. |
| PQQ13 | The alternative to WfYB is the JCP delivered alternative (enhanced stage 3) – what budget is being allocated to this? | Approximately £3.5m. This covers delivery and the personal support fund across both pilot sites. |
| PQQ14 | What are the client volumes for enhanced Stage 3? | 1900 in total. |
| PQQ15 | How many organisations will be shortlisted to ItT? | We are looking for approximately 5 bids per package area however the PQQ is about meeting the standards. |
| PQQ16 | If 10 providers all pass the test would they all be invited to tender? | It will depend on the relative scoring for each package area, if there were some bids that were much better than others then it may be that not all bidders would be invited to tender. |
| PQQ17 | What is important when assessing capacity and capability – i.e. what is the best evidence? | Instructions to bidders are very clear on criteria, it is not for DWP to tell providers what will be viewed more favourably. We are interested to see what proposals bidders put forward. |

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| PQQ18 | When will DWP share contact details for today's delegates? | We are aiming to publish these on the website on Monday 24 August, if anyone does not want their details publishing they should inform us through the PQQ e mail address. We are hoping that the presentation slides from today's event will be published on the website on Monday 24 August. |
| PQQ19 | Are you specifying a minimum performance level? | We are still considering performance levels and further details will be available in the ItT. |
| PQQ20 | Is there any additional funding for delivering services to deaf people and others with special need requirements in order to improve their chances of gaining employment – i.e. is there any discretionary spend within the budget? | All bids received will need to be compliant with requirements stated in the Disability and Discrimination Act. . Further investigations are being undertaken to clarify support available in other areas for example Access to Work. We will give further details of what additional support can be accessed by providers/participants at the ItT stage. |
| PQQ21 | Specialist providers have provided specialist help in the past through sub-contracting, are DWP now expecting them to bid in their own right or as a sub-contractor? | Specialist providers can bid in their own right, however bids are required for full delivery of the programme and will be assessed on capacity to deliver. |
| PQQ22 | Will a job outcome be paid after 13 weeks in employment and is this after completing the work experience | A job outcome will be paid after the client has been in employment for 13 weeks. A client does not have to participate for the full 6 months before entering full time work. |
| PQQ23 | Do DWP expect Providers to continue to work with customers after 6 months? | Providers are only expected to deliver Work for Your Benefit provision for 6 months, however they can continue to support the customer if they wish to. |
| PQQ24 | What tracking period applies to job outcomes? | This is to be confirmed but we do envisage that there will be a tracking period. Further details will be available at the ItT stage. |
| PQQ25 | Do job outcomes include self employed jobs? | Yes. |
| PQQ26 | Do customers with agreed reduced hours of attendance impact on the full time work criteria for job outcomes? | This will confirmed within the Invitation to Tender. |

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| PQQ27 | If a provider only wishes to be a sub-contractor do they submit a PQQ? | DWP are only expecting bids from Prime providers. There is no requirement to identify sub-contractors at the PQQ stage, however smaller organisations who wish to become a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) or a consortia should bid as a single entity at the PQQ stage. |
| PQQ28 | It would be useful to have a delegate list so we know who to engage with. | Full details will be published on the DWP website on 24 August. Providers have been e mailed and asked to supply contact details. |
| PQQ29 | Can you draw up a list of organisations that are interested in sub-contracting? | This is more appropriate to the Invitation to Tender event when the shortlist is known. If looking at Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) bids then you will need to identify in the PQQ which organisations are working together. |
| PQQ30 | How does self employment fit into this contract? | Job outcomes can be claimed for self employment. To carry out self employment as part of the work experience placement would be difficult to verify as full time activity. Therefore we envisage that work experience would normally be with an employer unless it can be supported by very strong evidence. |
| PQQ31 | Can host organisations access "Access to Work"? | We will give further details of what additional support can be accessed by providers/participants at the ItT stage. |
| PQQ32 | How was the £15m arrived at? | The amount was derived at after considering other similar programmes and what they delivered within their funding. |
| PQQ33 | What happens if customers leave the programme then reclaim benefit? | Linking rules will apply. Customers will be expected to complete 6 months in total in the programme. Further details will be available at the ItT stage. |
| PQQ34 | What flexibility is there on personalisation of placements? | Personalisation is a basic principle of the service we want to offer and so we would encourage approaches that take into account the needs and aspirations of each individual. We have given suppliers broad brush flexibility on the type of work experience they deliver to encourage innovation and novel approaches that get results. |

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| PQQ35 | What if a company offering a placement wants to employ the customer? | Customers will need to go through an open competition to be recruited or be offered a work trial through the normal Jobcentre Plus processes. |
| PQQ36 | Can providers `ramp down' placements towards the end of the 6 months to concentrate on Job Search to enable a job outcome? | We will consider this and provide further details at ItT stage. |
| PQQ37 | What is the capability test for providers? | This will be based on quality of service offered, but essentially the Pre Qualification Questionnaire will be used to assess suitable providers. |
| PQQ38 | The total of 40 hours makes a long week, can there be any flexibility? | The essence of the provision is 30 hours work experience and up to 10 hours support. We will consider further flexibilities and more detail will be provided at ItT stage. |
| PQQ39 | Funding structure – is the job outcome element a conflict to providing work experience? | No. The programme should aim to develop work habits that will enable customers gain sustained employment, and the additional support and training that can be offered is clearly designed to maintain job search activity in complement to the work experience. |
| PQQ40 | Are there any examples of good practice? | This is a new programme and as such there are few relevant precedents. In addition we want to encourage innovation rather than developing a programme based specifically on similar programmes in other countries. |
| PQQ41 | Are there any other supporting materials? | A list of supporting materials can be found within the PQQ. Hansard also has a record of the debates around the Welfare Reform Bill 2009 which contains the WfYB legislation and may be a valuable source of information on the Government's intentions in this area. http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/welfarereform.html |
| PQQ42 | Some customers may have significant barriers that would need to be overcome, will all customers be eligible or will some be excluded? | No exclusions are anticipated. |

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| PQQ43 | <p>Please could you just clarify for me 6.9 and 6.10 of the instruction to bidders.</p> <p>Can you confirm that the PQQ should be submitted WITHOUT Part 11 which should be submitted in a separate envelope?</p> | <p>Paragraph 6.9 sets out the instructions relating to PQQ Parts 1 to 10, whilst paragraph 6.10 sets out the instructions relating to PQQ Part 11 and Annex to Part 11</p> <p>The PQQ Part 11 should be separated from Parts 1 to 10 and placed in an envelope marked 'financial information' in accordance with the instructions at paragraph 6.10. This envelope along with the remaining PQQ responses (i.e. Parts 1 to 10) should be submitted in accordance with paragraphs 6.8 and 6.11</p> |
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