

## Key Internal Partners

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### **DEAs**

4. The DEAs role is to work with disabled customers or those with a health condition and help them overcome the challenges faced when seeking employment. They also support advisers who deal with customers who are disabled or who have a health condition. The DEAs may be able to provide you with useful information about local organisations as they have access to a wide range of service options to offer their customers. They also have a number of helpful contacts they can seek assistance/advice from. Further detailed information can be found on the DEA site - DEA Home

5. As you build up knowledge about the help and support that is available in your locality, you should ensure that this information is made available to the DEAs as they may not always be aware of all the provision that is available. In particular, you should make them aware of the vocational services being provided by the NHS in their area so that they are able to make appropriate recommendations to their customers. Wherever possible you should establish a named contact in each commissioned service and make the DEAs aware of these contacts. Not all NHS Trusts/PCTs will have a vocational service that assists people with mental health conditions, but if they don't, they will be looking to develop one over the coming months/years.

### **Access to Work**

6. Access to Work (AtW) provides practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. For example, the Workplace Mental Health Support Service (MHSS) provides support to individuals with a mental health condition, who are absent from work or finding work difficult.

Work Choice

7. Support for disabled people with more complex support needs that cannot be met through other employment support provision. It provides access to the right support to help them find work or self-employment, progress in the workplace or, where appropriate, move into open unsupported employment.

### **Work Programme**

8. Lord Freud hosted a seminar in July 2011 for Work Programme prime providers and specialist mental health and employment organisations, to

discuss how to achieve better employment outcomes for those with mental health conditions.

9. A representative group of Work Programme prime providers and specialist mental health and employment organisations was established to look at how they could share knowledge and experience about delivering joined-up support for those with poor mental health, to achieve better employment outcomes.

10. In November 2011, all members of the group signed up to a consensus statement that pledges them to develop their expertise to help people with poor mental health conditions find, enter, and remain in employment.

11. The group have also developed a resource directory containing details of and types of providers of support. The aim is that Work Programme prime providers will utilise it to help achieve better employment outcomes for those looking for work that have poor mental health.

Work Psychologists

12. Jobcentre Plus Work Psychology comprises of a network of Occupational Psychologists who offer a range of local services aimed primarily at helping Jobcentre Plus' priority groups progress into work. Jobcentre Plus Work Psychologists also offer training/mentoring services to Advisers, and undertake project work with priority groups. The directory of Jobcentre Plus Work Psychologists can be found here.

### **External Relations Team**

13. You will need to work closely with your colleagues in the External Relations (ER) Team and tap into their knowledge and experience.

### **The cross-government Health, Work and Well-being initiative**

14. This is taken forward in partnership by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department of Health (DH), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

15. DWP recognises that a coordinated approach to health and employment issues is required, and works with other government departments, the devolved governments, and three key stakeholder groups:

- Employers - specifically focussed on providing SME businesses with a greater capacity to deal effectively with health issues and sickness absence
- Individuals - in particular building capacity at a local level to commission and deliver integrated services focussed on supporting people to retain work when health issues arise

- healthcare professionals - to engender cultural change within the healthcare professions to ensure that good quality back-to-work advice is embedded in good clinical practice in primary and secondary care