LSC funded pre-employment provision offers

The LSC is the organisation with primary responsibility for the planning and funding of further education for those aged 16 and over in England. As part of this, the LSC has responsibility for ensuring the delivery of appropriate skills provision to Jobcentre Plus customers, who are a priority customer group. This provision includes basic skills and job-related skills training including that developed in response to the economic downturn.

The department for Work and Pensions (DWP) primarily contracts with providers to deliver provision specifically for long-term unemployed Jobcentre Plus customers who are supported under the various New Deal programmes. Participation in these programmes is mandatory and a condition of receiving benefit.

Through the delivery of an Integrated Employment and Skills Service, new joint management arrangements should ensure that the LSC and JCP offer complementary packages of flexible and responsive provision to meet the needs of JCP customers and employers in the local economy. JCP should be notified of provider and course details for all offers through joint management arrangements locally.

JCP front-line Advisers can directly refer customers with skills needs to the most appropriate local provision to meet those needs. With the exception of mandatory New Deal customers, JCP Advisers should prioritise LSC-funded skills provision in line with national agreements.

Employability Skills Programme (ESP)

**Key features:** The provision offer is available on a roll-on/roll-off basis throughout the year. Participation can be full or part-time. Full time learners can receive a Training Allowance (benefit plus a training premium) that provides access to JCP funded support for travel and childcare costs. Basic skills delivery is embedded in the delivery of generic employability skills such as time-keeping, communicating at work, reliability etc. Participants are expected to normally undertake 2 qualifications during their time on the Programme.

**Target customer group:** All JCP customers aged 18 plus with basic skills needs.

**Delivery by:** A mix of contracted independent, college and voluntary providers across the sector.

**Outputs:** Basic literacy/ESOL and numeracy qualifications at all levels from Entry Level 1 to Level 2; employability qualifications at Entry Levels 2 and 3 and level 1; job outcomes where possible for some participants.
**Key point:** This is the only programme to which JCP customers with an identified basic skills need should be referred and can be referred from day one of a claim for benefit.

**Response to Redundancy**

**Key features:** Provision is typically 2 to 8 weeks full or part-time. Training must focus on skills development and relate to a sector offering current vacancies or in which there will be vacancies in the near future. Training offered need not lead to qualifications, but accreditation of units should be made available to provide individuals with transferable evidence of skills and knowledge for future progression. The individually tailored package includes help with careers advice, job search and job applications where appropriate. This is a short sharp intervention for people relatively close to being job ready.

**Target customer group:** Adults aged 18 and over under notice of redundancy or recently made redundant; those who have been unemployed for longer but who could be made job ready through this package of support.

**Delivery by:** A mix of contracted independent, college and voluntary providers across the sector.

**Outputs:** Skills (not necessarily qualifications) to keep someone in work or to obtain a new job; a job outcome with training.

**Key point:** This is for those who need a short, job-focussed intervention, not totally re-skilling, whilst under notice of redundancy or once they are out of work and claiming benefit.

**Note:** This should not be confused with the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service.

**Training offer for those unemployed for 6 months**

**Key features:** Provision is typically 2 to 8 weeks full or part-time. Training must focus on the objective of delivering provision or units towards a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification. The expectation is that the qualification will be started whilst the participant is funded under this offer and completed in the workplace once in employment or through mainstream funding (typically in a college).

**Target customer group:** Adults aged 19 and over who have been unemployed for 6 months or who have been fast tracked to this status.

**Delivery by:** Mainly FE Colleges

**Outputs:** Skills and/or qualifications that contribute towards the achievement of a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification; a job outcome with continuation of the training started under this offer.
**Key point:** This is for those who are able to undertake a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification and who need a significant skills intervention to up-skill or re-skill.

**Skills for Jobs**

**Key features:** This is a regionally designed programme subject to variation to meet the needs of the regional/local labour markets and economy. Provision is typically 2 to 8 weeks part-time. Training must focus on the skills required to achieve a job outcome in the local labour market. Training is predominantly designed to meet the needs of employers with vacancies offered through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs).

**Target customer group:** Adults aged 19 and over who are economically inactive.

**Delivery by:** A mix of contracted independent, college and voluntary providers across the sector.

**Outputs:** A job outcome that lasts at least 13 weeks.

**Key point:** Participants do not need to be JCP customers and provision does not need to lead to qualifications.

IES Team  
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