Local Employment Partnerships

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Introduction to Local Employment Partnerships

- Local Employment Partnerships (LEP) were introduced in March 2007 to help the most disadvantaged in the labour market.
- LEP operates on a simple deal with employers: Jobcentre Plus and its partners get disadvantaged jobseekers ready for work and employers agree to give them a fair chance at a vacancy
- LEP compliments and integrates with existing Jobcentre Plus initiatives to make the best use of existing funding and expertise.

LEP Objectives

- The key ministerial target is to find work for 250,000 of our priority group customers through LEP by December 2010.
- To encourage employers to provide more opportunities for jobless people.
- To ensure that our partnership with employers is not only about getting people ready for work but also about developing their skills once they are in employment.
- In England, employers are also encouraged to take advantage of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) support, available through Train to Gain to develop the skills of the people they employ.

LEP Success

- By the end of March 2009 more than 145,000 people had found work through LEP. 140,000 of these were helped during the last operational year.
- DWP is leading by example, and achieved over 2,000 LEP job outcomes by the end of March 2009.
- More than 20,000 employers have used LEP to meet their recruitment needs.
- Due to the success of LEP, work is in hand to extend the penetration of LEPs throughout the public sector in four key areas, the NHS, other Government Departments, Local Authorities and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs).

LEP Extension in the economic downturn

- The increase in unemployment, due to the economic downturn has enabled Jobcentre Plus to demonstrate the flexibility of LEP.
- LEP has been adjusted to incorporate the customers who are newly unemployed in addition to our priority group customers.
- The extension will open up access to a larger pool of customers as well as employers who agree to LEP, giving additional outcomes of around 100,00 over and above the original target of 250,000 for December 2010.

LEP and our Employer Testimonials

- **Justin King, Sainsbury's, said:**

  "Sainsbury's is committed to LEPs and the opportunity they afford the long-term unemployed to get back into work.

  We fully support the initiative which is helping us reach out to people across the country and tap into their skills, whilst enabling us to recruit willing and motivated employees to fill our vacancies.

  LEPs are benefiting employees, employers and the wider community as more people are brought back into work within their local community, and we are proud to be playing our part."

LEP and our Employer Testimonials

Anita Voss HSBC Service Manager said:

"I would definitely recommend that employers sign up to Local Employment Partnerships. It has really opened our eyes to the sort of individuals who are out there who we can offer hope and employment to. The staff that we have employed through LEP are really quality people – very keen and eager to work.

Ian Cheshire, Chief Executive, B&Q said:

"A diverse workforce is critical to B&Q and being part of the Local Employment Partnerships gives us the best chance of securing the people we need now and in the future. Working with Jobcentre Plus is proving to be a very practical step towards this aim."

LEP and our Employer Testimonials

- **Julie Quarrington, Exemplar Health Care said:**

  “Signing up to the LEP has opened many new avenues for us as we are now recruiting from a previously untapped pool.

  “Our attitudes and beliefs about the long term unemployed have changed so much. We are finding people who really want to work, and take a great pride in what they do,

  “Working with Jobcentre Plus is a true and very effective partnership.”

LEP and what it means for our Customers

- Anthony Adams, Banksman Slinger, 2012 Olympic Park Construction Site said:

  “I was on benefits for a along time with no prospects and no future. Through Local Employment Partnerships, Jobcentre Plus and Train to Gain I could go and get the qualifications I needed to get on to the building site. I can now look to a brighter future.”

  “I started as a labourer but I am now a banksman. I was promoted within a week.”

  “I can actually plan for the future – a better life. I would recommend this path to anyone on benefits and who thinks they have no hope for the future.”

Questions and Answers