

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Director of Public Health

### Report Title

**Greater Manchester Work Programme Leavers Pilot**

### Summary

Work Programme Leavers (WPL) is a Greater Manchester pilot scheme to provide intensive support to people leaving the Work Programme without employment after two years. This briefing provides some background to the pilot and explains Trafford Council's contribution, including the financial commitment into the pilot scheme. The note also explains Trafford Council's initial discussions with the successful provider bid awarded to Big Life to deliver the WPL contract in Trafford and the Agreement to implement a range of Draft Joint Working Protocols to ensure wider multi-agency support (eg housing, health, etc).

### Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Notes progress on the (Trafford and partners ) local work to support the successful bid for Work Programme Leavers support

### Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

**Name:** Nidi Etim (Growth and Business Development Manager) and Sandy Bering (Strategic Lead Commissioner)

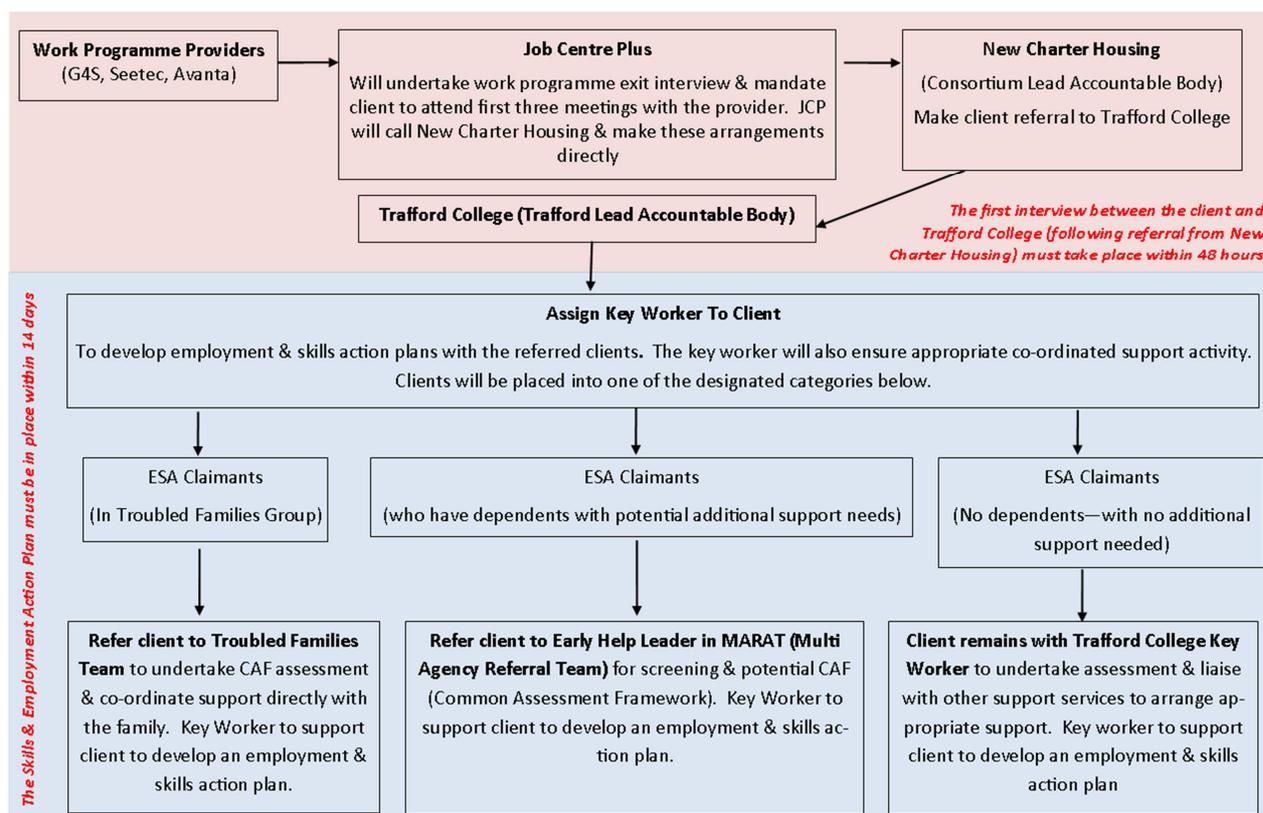
**Extension:** x4085

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Work Programme Leavers (WPL) is a Greater Manchester (GM) pilot scheme and was announced by the Chancellor on 1<sup>st</sup> October as part of the “Help to Work” package of measures to support long-term benefit claimants back into work (see attached AGMA QAs and GM HWB Briefing documents).
- 1.2 WPL will test a place- based approach to helping people claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA Work Related Activity Group- those assessed as capable of working in the future) to move into work. The cohort is 5000 ESA claimants who have been on the Work Programme (a Government scheme to help support unemployed people into work) for two years and not found sustained work. Under the pilot scheme, the group will receive better integrated, more intensive support from key workers, who coordinate and sequence all other public services into bespoke packages of support for individuals.
- 1.3 The Government is providing 80% of the funding for the pilot, with the remaining 20% to be made up by the ten GM local authorities. The total cost of the GM pilot is £14.4m, of which £11.52m is being contributed by the Government, with the remaining £2.88m split proportionately between the local authorities. See paragraph 2.5 for a breakdown of the Trafford contribution through to 2016/17.
- 1.4 Additionally an application will be made for European Social Fund (ESF) monies under the new Operational Programme (2014-2020), and if successful, this money will be used as match funding for the Local Authority contribution. However a decision on the ESF funding won't be known until late 2014 at the earliest.
- 1.5 The overall targets for the Programme are to get 15% of ESA claimants into sustained work of at least twelve months duration. This is a very stretching target, particularly when compared to current national Work Programme performance outcomes of around 7% for jobs of up to 13 weeks.
- 1.6 The payment mechanism will be based on payment by results with an overall payment fee of £2,880 per claimant into work. This is broken down into three stages: an initial attachment fee of £1,440; followed by a job entry payment of £576 and a final sustainment payment of £864.
- 1.7 Trafford Council's Chief Executive is the AGMA lead for the Work Programme Pilot scheme and chairs the Work Programme Leavers Programme Board.
- 1.8 There was a tender process for a provider to deliver WPL across Greater Manchester. The contract for WPL is being managed by Salford City Council and went out on the Chest tendering system on 22nd November 2013. The deadline for submission of tenders was 12 noon 7th January 2014. There was intense interest in the WPL contract and two bidders for the contract were awarded in Greater Manchester. The contract was split into ten lots, with the two successful being Big Life (Manchester, Salford and Trafford) and Ingeus (Bolton, Bury, HMR, Oldham, Stockport, Tameside and Wigan).
- 1.9 The pilot services in Greater Manchester started on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## 2.0 WPL in Trafford

- 2.1 Helen Jones, Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Prosperity is the Local Lead for WPL in Trafford. An inter-agency steering group has been set up to steer the pilot programme in Trafford, made up of Trafford Council, Trafford College, Trafford Housing Trust, Thrive, representatives from Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Public Health, Citizens Advice and various voluntary sector partners. The Group have developed a Local Integration Plan to show how local services will work with Big Life as the external provider awarded the contract to deliver the WPL pilot scheme. Each GM authority has its own bespoke Local Integration Plan.
- 2.2 WPL builds on the work of Stronger Families in developing a person centred approach to dealing with individuals in the context of their family situation; in having a key worker to coordinate and bring a package of services to the individual/family rather than just pointing individuals or families to those services. WPL will be closely aligned with Stronger Families work in Trafford. Referrals coming in which are assessed as being “Troubled Families” will be taken down the Troubled Families pathway but will eventually be introduced to the WPL key worker to work with on work and skills activities (as appropriate). Other individuals will be introduced to the key worker to develop an employment action plan. The initial proposed process is detailed in the flow chart below but is now being reviewed with the successful bidder Big Life (see attached notes of Trafford WPL Provider - Steering Group meeting):-



- 2.3 There is a shortage of data on precise numbers of people on the Work Programme broken down by authority area as this is not currently collected by DWP. However the estimated cohort for Trafford for the pilot was 200. There is also very little data on individual needs although it is clear that many of the leavers will have complex health and social needs which will need to be addressed, in many cases before they return to work. The skills of the key workers involved in identifying needs and pulling in resources from a range of providers to meet the needs of the individual will be critical to the success of the programme.

2.4 Trafford Council has an advantage in already having signed data sharing agreements in place with Work Programme providers. Whilst these do not enable the sharing of individual details, the agreements have helped to facilitate closer working with Work Programme providers who now sit on Trafford’s Employment, Enterprise and Skills (TEES) Group and have been working with partners to look at how we can best support people on the Work Programme to achieve better outcomes rather than just working with those who come off at the other end.

2.5 Trafford’s financial contribution into the pilot scheme will be as follows:-

Trafford	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
	£ 30,201	£ 19,390	£ 9,510	£ 553	£ 59,654

This includes a contribution to the overall management of the pilot programme and the evaluation which will be commissioned at a GM level. On the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Executive agreed to a commitment to the General Reserve for the support of the Greater Manchester Work Programme Leavers pilot.

**3.0 Work Programme Leavers Consortium Bid**

- 3.1 The Trafford steering group originally believed that they could provide a strong partnership response to working with Work Programme Leavers and decided to bid to deliver the contract in Trafford. Following discussions with Tameside and Stockport, a three way consortium bid covering the three local authority areas was agreed. The consortium bid was led by New Charter Housing (for Tameside) with Stockport Homes leading for Stockport and Trafford College leading for Trafford. The proposed governance arrangements.
- 3.2 The original Trafford provider Bid although was unsuccessful but was helpful in developing the details of the local Integration Plan and collaborative working in line with the Trafford Partnership priorities.
- 3.3 There are no additional financial consequences in terms of either potential income or costs, to the Authority or other agencies. However, the advantage has been that it links directly with the Public service reform agenda and service delivery to reduce inappropriate demand for various services in the future.
- 3.4 Following the award of the Trafford Contract to Big Life, an initial meeting of the WPL Steering Group with Big Life took place to agree the way forward and a number of Joint Working Protocols are proposed to integrate this programme with housing, health and other partners (see attached)

**4.0 Next steps**

4.1 The Trafford WPL Steering Group will continue to work with Big Life – in line with the Public Service Reform agenda now that the WPL programme is in operation.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report for information, and to receive further updates as relevant.

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** N/A.

**Finance Officer Clearance** .....  
**Legal Officer Clearance** .....

**[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** (*electronic*).....  
To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.