

Welfare Reform, DWP Commissioning and Localisation

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Welfare Reform Principles

- A stronger framework of rights and responsibilities to move benefit claimants from being passive recipients to being active jobseekers;
- A personalised, responsive and effective approach to individual needs;
- Partnership between public, private and third sectors, based on a strategic view of the role for each
- Targeting areas of high worklessness by devolving and empowering communities;
- Encouraging co-commissioning across the public sector so that the full range of issues of those who are not in work can be more effectively addressed; and
- Not just jobs, but jobs that pay well, offer opportunities for progression and continue to develop our customers' skills.

Commissioning Strategy overview

- Longer, larger contracts.
- More outcome based funding.
- High performing delivery chains.
- A focus on place not structures with top tier providers taking a more strategic role.
- Increased involvement with local delivery mechanisms, engaging with partnerships and other joint arrangements in Scotland and Wales.

Localisation of employment programmes

- Reasons for DWP Localisation
- Recognise that communities have specific needs.
- Support activity to join up provision and make provision more responsive to local circumstances / Labour Markets.
- Reduce duplication.
- To improve outcomes.
- Supported by new flexible contracts.

Level 1 – Consultation / Engagement

- Local partners have the opportunity to help shape DWP contracted employment provision.
- Offers partners a clear end-to-end process for involvement in DWP commissioning.
- Supported by;
- Contracted providers with flexibilities and incentives to develop tailored solutions to meet individuals' needs.
- Opportunity for partners to develop a new sort of relationship with DWP providers (delivery partners).

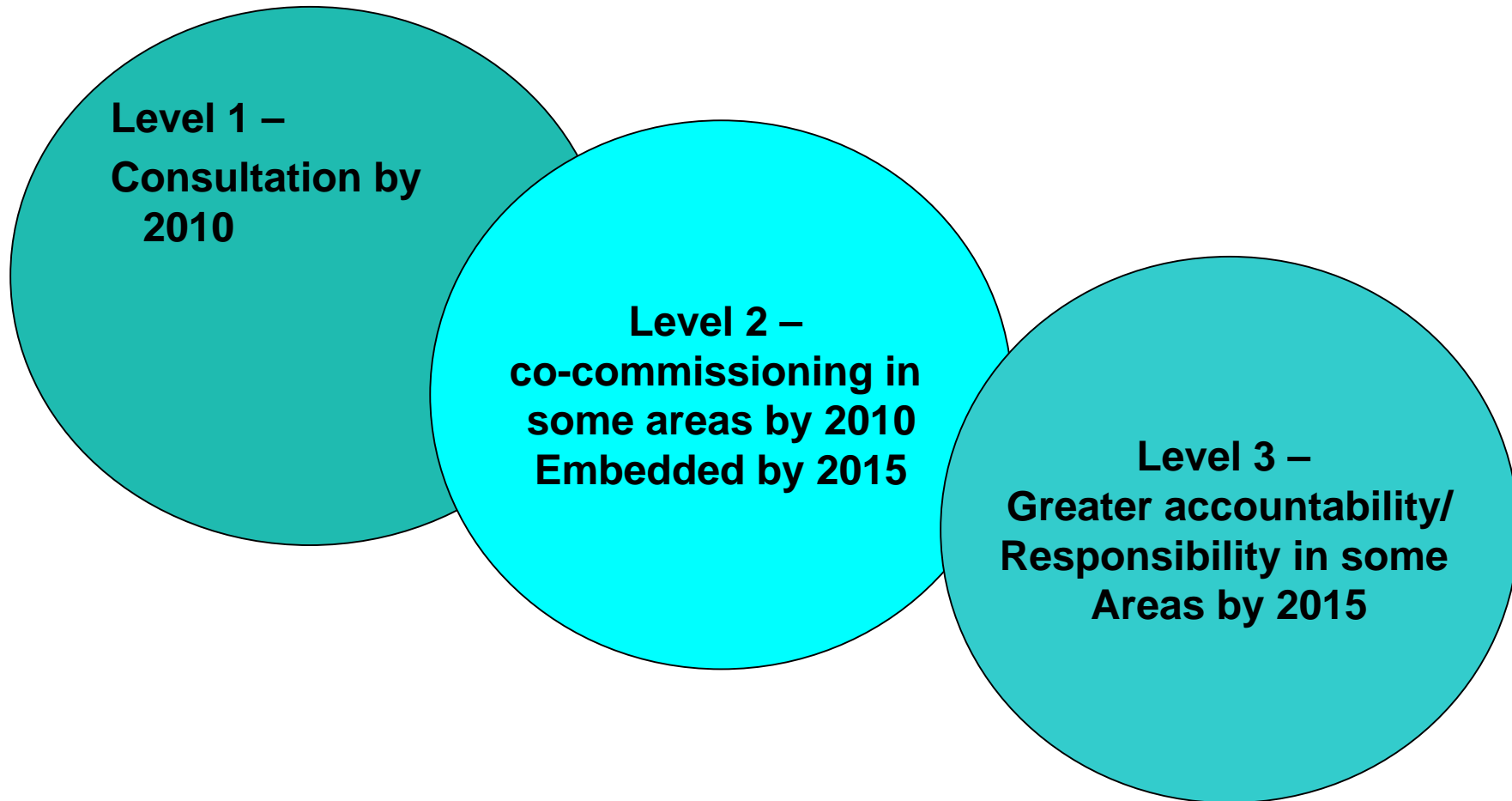
Level 2 – Co-commissioning

- Supports alignment of existing funding streams with DWP commissioned provision, to develop local solutions.
- Opportunity for co-commissioning / joint commissioning.
- LSC, DWP, RDA and Local Authority funding brought together.
- DWP will retain responsibility for the contracting of provision.
- Working with sub regional partners.

Level 3 – Greater devolution

- We would go further and could involve handing over responsibility for delivering outcomes to the locality.
- Move to Level 3 will be on a managed basis.

Moving forward



DWP Commissioning timeline

- **Flexible New Deal**- support for people on Jobseekers Allowance and will replace the current, separate New Deals
- **Jobcentre Plus support Contract** - National programme delivering a range of vocational and personal development services to support Jobcentre Plus customers and help move them towards the job market.
- **Improving Disability Employment Advisory Services programme** - tailored packages for customers whose disability raises serious and complex issues in finding and/or keeping a paid job
- **European Social Fund**- The ESF 2007-2013 programme (England) continues to provide opportunities to unemployed and disadvantaged people by providing the training and support they need to enter jobs
- **Progress to Work/ Link Up** - programme which will offer personalised additional support for customers such as recovering drug and alcohol misusers, homeless people or ex-offenders to help them to move into work

DWP Commissioning timeline – cont.d

- **Work For Your Benefit Pilots** - providing tailored, full-time activity (work experience and employment support) for some customers who finish Flexible New Deal without finding sustained work.
- **‘Invest to Save’ Pathfinders (formerly AME/DEL)** - occurring in 5 regions of the country and supporting long-term incapacity benefit claimants back into employment. They will be funded by an innovative invest-to-save agreement between DWP and HM Treasury, with the Department paying providers out of the benefit savings achieved from successful job entries.
- **Personalised Employment Programme-** a single, integrated, flexible employment programme for Jobseeker’s Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance claimants.
- **Young Persons Guarantee:** a guaranteed offer of a job (**Future Jobs Fund**), work-focused training (**Community Task Force**), or work experience for all 18 to 24 year olds approaching twelve months on Jobseekers allowance.
- And potentially **more...**

Progress to date

Partnerships have:-

- commented on specifications
- commented on local fit within bids
- participated in first post contract award briefings
- trialling level 2 (co-commissioning).
- invested funds in three Jobcentre Plus Support Contracts
- committed to invest in two FND2 contracts

Issues / Next Steps

- A clear push from ministers to move this agenda forward quickly, which means we are developing the policy and understanding as we go along.
- Need to agree how DWP and JCP will work together, roles etc.
- Building localisation into all commissioning.
- We shared our forward commissioning time line in early 2009.
- Support MAAs in their thinking with regard to DWP commissioning.
- Start work to clarify processes for engagement with partners and define the role of and impact on JCP.



Questions