

# Health and Wellbeing Report (For information)

**MEETING:** Health & Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 10 April 2014

**SUBJECT:** Greater Manchester Public Service Reform - Work  
Programme Leavers: Health Protocol

**REPORT FROM:** Tracey Flynn

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## **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Bury Health and Wellbeing Board about the Greater Manchester Public Service Reform - Work Programme Leavers (WPL) initiative and its alignment with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.2 To note the alignment of the WPL to relevant priorities in the Bury's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.3 To seek the Board's agreement to the WPL Health Protocol (attached) and clarity on how this might be operationalised in Bury.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Tackling worklessness and issues of low skills levels is a key part of the Greater Manchester Strategy, Stronger Together. The drive to enable economic growth, build resilient and self reliant communities is key to the Public Service Reform agenda. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy also recognises these areas as key to achieving good mental and physical health and wellbeing. The WPL initiative directly contributes to Team Bury's priority area of facilitating a stronger local economy and reducing worklessness. These shared priorities provide a stimulus for joint working to develop innovative working models across workstreams and partners.
- 2.2 Work Programme Leavers (WPL) was announced by the Chancellor in October 2013 and is the main activity under the Work and Skills theme of the PSR programme. WPL is strategically important because success could lead to greater GM influence and control over future public spending in areas such as welfare and public service reform. A key part of the work is a robust evaluation to provide evidence to government of the success of the pilot compared to a

'business as usual' model which will be a controlled assessment of another location outside GM.

- 2.3 WPL is a high profile, co-funded and co-commissioned pilot between AGMA and Whitehall, designed to tackle persistently high levels of workless residents in Greater Manchester.
- 2.4 Bury Council has committed to supporting the Work Programme Leavers cohort through involvement in the Local Implementation Plan, aligning budgets and reprioritising resources where appropriate.
- 2.5 The WPL initiative is designed for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) claimants who have exited the national Work Programme after two years and not secured employment. The ESA WRAG group is for claimants who the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) consider will be capable of work at some time in the future and who are capable of taking steps towards moving into work (work-related activities) immediately.
- 2.6 A key worker model will provide WPL participants with up to two years support towards gaining sustained employment. Participants who move into employment will also receive a year of ongoing support, helping ensure job starts become sustained employment.
- 2.7 The contract with WPL providers will provide them with access to prioritised, coordinated and sequenced local services, ensuring key workers are able to access the right services at the right time when developing bespoke packages of support. Given the nature of the barriers to work faced by WPL participants, access to health as well as skills related interventions will be a critical success factor in achieving the desired outcomes of the programme.

### **3.0 Issues**

- 3.1 By the nature of this particular cohort, individuals that are referred to this provision will have one or more health related issues. At a GM level the WPL Programme Board supported by the WPL Programme Office are developing key GM protocols for health, housing, skills and employment. The intention is that the protocols will be signed off by the appropriate GM strategic boards but translating intent into action will require local ownership. At GM level the protocols are being progressed through the following forums:

- GM CCGs
- GM Health and Wellbeing Board
- GM Health and Wellbeing Board Conveners network

Health and Wellbeing Leaders across organisations have been asked to support this pilot. The Board are asked to consider the WPL Health Protocol and to agree to support this activity as a key priority.

- 3.2 The key commitments are:

- Putting in place the range of interventions across relevant service areas and provide the scope to reprioritise a proportion of these services for WPL
- ensuring sequencing will take place and coordinate intervention
- identify opportunities to influence future services
- ensure existing responsibilities, prioritisation and integration take account of cohort requirements
- share data with partners

## 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Work Programme Leavers complements the work of the Board and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and promotes partnership arrangements for Health and Social Care Services. The robust evaluation that tracks the WPL activity will be a valuable resource for informing and shaping future integrated health and social care models of delivery to people with complex needs.

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### List of Background Papers:-

Work Programme Draft Health Protocol



140221 WPL protocol  
health to Feb Board.

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