

Out of Work Service (OoWS) Supplier Meeting

11th December 2024 11:00-13:00

Welsh Government Pavilion at Builth Wells Royal Welsh Showground

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
<redacted s40(2)>	OoWS – Welsh Government (Chair)
<redacted s40(2)>	OoWS – Welsh Government
<redacted s40(2)>	OoWS – Welsh Government
<redacted s40(2)>	OoWS – Welsh Government
<redacted s40(2)>	Adferiad
<redacted s40(2)>	Case-UK
<redacted s40(2)>	Platform
<redacted s40(2)>	Welsh Local Government Association
<redacted s40(2)>	HM Prison & Probation
<redacted s40(2)>	DWP
<redacted s40(2)>	Employability Division, Welsh Government

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Apologies

Name	Organisation	Notes
<redacted s40(2)>	HM Prison & Probation	
<redacted s40(2)>	Adferiad	
<redacted s40(2)>	Platform	
<redacted s40(2)>	Adferiad	
<redacted s40(2)>	Case-UK	
<redacted s40(2)>	Platform	

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting 12/09/2024

From Meeting on 11th September 2024:

Action Number	Action Detail	Item	Status
1.	<redacted s40(2)> to message <redacted s40(2)> with issues experienced with JCP's and <redacted s40(2)> to take required action.	2	Complete & Ongoing
2.	<redacted s40(2)> to review JCP referrals and provide response to OoWS Team	3	Complete
3.	<redacted s40(2)> to raise with colleagues internally why there are fewer JCP referrals to OoWS.	3	Complete
	Issues are dealt with as and when they arise. <redacted s40(2)> continues to be contact point for any new issues and will endeavour to resolve. Feedback from Job Centres is that there is a high turnover of work coaches and procedures regarding the OoWS Forms are not always known.		
4.	<redacted s40(2)> to share <redacted s40(2)> (Employment Liaison Officer) details with <redacted s40(2)>	6	Complete
5.	All to provide more recent Case Studies relating to participants receiving OoWS service.	7	Complete



Gwasanaeth
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Out of
Work Service

3.0 OoWS update

Funding Beyond 24-25

- The Welsh Government published its Draft budget yesterday, 10 December. additional £400k revenue funding for Health and Social Services. Majority is earmarked for tackling waiting times, increase in NHS pay and improvements in 'Women's Health' services. The Mental Health budget line, which includes the Out of Work Service has been flatlined.
- Ministers are currently considering advice on extending the Out of Work Service to August 2026, initial 31-month period with option to extend for additional 17 months. <redacted s40(2)> hopes to have news shortly.
- Further discussions will be required to review project targets to account for additional project timeframe when known. Individual supplier meetings will be set up for this.

Action 1: <redacted s40(2)> to set up individual supplier meetings to discuss review of project targets in the new year.

Activity Levels

- As per the paper shared figures demonstrate that at the end Q9 (July to September 2024) – 8,178 Participants Registered – 6,153 (25+) & 2,024 (16-24) (24.7%)
- There were 1,103 registrations in Q9, 44 more registrations than last quarter at 1059.
- For Q10 to date (Oct and Nov), 667 participants have been supported in this two-month period and includes 179 aged 16-24 or 26.8%.
- Main referral source for participants in Q9 is from DWP/JCP again at 19.6%.
- The split between Mental Health, Substance misuse and Both remains at MH 68%, SM at 2% and Both at 30%.
- The employment status is broken down as follows:

LTU - 3062 37%

EI - 3090 38%

NEET - 2026 25%
- Of the 8,178 participants registered, 1,934 or 23.65% have self-declared as disabled.
- There are currently 3,333 open cases across the project. As discussed at the last meeting, where participants are inactive/not engaging, files should be closed. They can be re-opened if participant re-engages. This will give a more accurate reflection of Peer Mentor Caseloads
- Total outcomes across all 7 Lots are very positive. Job Search and Qualifications Gained/Work Related Certificate have already been achieved. If outcomes have been achieved and not yet reported, please do so – these are routinely shared with Ministers and used to outline the success of the project.

- No's into employment are below where we would like this to be at this stage of the project. We recognise that the numbers in employment 6 months after leaving is not likely to be achieved based on the demographic of the project.
- Powys (Lot 6) were complimented on achieving and in many cases exceeding their targets including achieving the employment target.
- All Lots were encouraged to claim any outstanding outcomes not reflected on the database so that we have an up-to-date position.

Action 2: Suppliers to review current open caseload and close inactive participants.

4.0 **Supplier Update**

Adferiad

Registrations are ongoing. Collaborating with Prisons in line with the 'Early Release Scheme'. Continue to network with People Plus Maximus and Adferiad. 'Cwtch Bear' is well received – participants feel recognition for their hard work. Accredited training is delivered via 'Agored'. Volunteering continues and how the participants are contributing towards the Crisp packet challenge whereby old crisp packets are collected and made into emergency blankets for the homeless and elderly. <redacted s40(2)> in Cardiff & Vale (Lot 7) is leading on this. Employment brunches continue with Adferiad joining other events not just their own.

Action 3: Adferiad to share case studies of Cwtch Bear with <redacted s40(2)>

Case UK

The Busy Group have taken over Case UK, they are a community interest company originally based in Australia - <https://thebusygroup.org.uk/>. They are a Third sector Occupational Health Organisation and the first in the UK.

Open cases are currently being reviewed within CASE UK and inactive participant files are being closed. <redacted s40(2)> to undertake further work with STORI to review theirs.

3 New JCP drop-in session have been set up.

A social media campaign is in progress and a weekly newsletter issued.

A Peer Mentoring Training Programme has now started.

Pilot Scheme introduced with Parc Prison to work with individual's pre-release and capture those eligible for OoWS Support who are moving back into the Cwm Taf area post release.

Platform

Last quarter has been challenging in terms of participant registrations and sustaining engagement with lots of hard work undertaken to boost numbers. There has been an increase in need for their clothing exchange project and food bank. Monthly well-being events are well attended, with some on-line wellbeing involvement.

Good relationships established between OoWS and JCP staff.

A participant who was keen to gain employment started a women's group – a wellbeing group of between 12-15 women attending weekly – Peer Led.

5.0 UK Government White Paper – Get Britain Working

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67448dd1ece939d55ce92fee/get-britain-working-white-paper.pdf>

The White Paper published by the UK Government sets out its aims to get more more economically inactive into employment. Many of the proposals with the Paper apply to England only, where matters are devolved to Wales - e.g plans to deliver a Youth Graduate programme for 18-21's, Wales already has a Young Person's Guarantee.

Connect to Work – Is a supported employment Programme for England and Wales – guidance has been sent to all Local Authorities in England and Wales. Aim to support Economically Inactive individuals who are disabled and/or with Health conditions wanting to search for employment. These will be delivered regionally by 4 lead local authorities in Wales (accountable bodies). As yet only 1 Accountable Body (Swansea in the South West) has been agreed. Further discussions are continuing with WLGA to establish the other 3. Funding awarded from April 2025. An Oversight Board has been set up and meets weekly to develop progress.

Trailblazer – White Paper announced funding for a Trailblazer in Wales to tackle EI. Welsh Government engaged with DWP on this to develop a model for Wales. Conversations are ongoing to establish cohorts to be supported where limited/minimal provision exists as do not want to duplicate provision.

Green Paper (Disabled) due out in Spring 2025.

6.0 DWP Update

IPS

- Had feedback of positive conversations between Health Boards delivering IPS and yourselves (Lots 3 and Lot 7) so thank you.
- Lot 3 – Hywel Dda University Health Board have had 87 referrals to end of November including about 40 last month. 4 into work so far.
- Lot 7 – Cardiff and Vale have received 78 referrals in about 5 weeks to end of Nov.

Peer Mentoring Project in North-East Wales

Funding will end in March 2025.

Referrals to date:

Wrexham – 35 with 28 starts.

Shotton – 35 with 26 starts and

Rhyl – 28 with 25 starts

Overall, 67% start ratio.

Wallich is undertaking engagement activities – engaging with PCSO's, FE & HE Colleges.

Wrexham – 4 into employment.

Shotton – 6 into employment and

Rhyl – 5 into employment

Cannabis and alcohol greatest substances used.

JCP verifying eligibility

Nothing further to report.

6. **HMPPS Update**

<redacted s40(2)> updated the group. Newport Job event was well attended. 3 job offers and training offers achieved as part of event. Swansea event resulted in 6 job offers. Further event planned in North Wales in February 2025.

7. **Best Practice**

Probation Service is now delivering a scaffolding course prior to release into the community.

8. **Any Other Business**

<redacted s40(2)> reported that any unspent funds in 24-25 from the Shared Prosperity Fund will be returned to treasury. 40% less funding will be available in new financial year with funding post March 2026 not known.

9. **Date & Location of Next Meeting**

12th March 2024 - 11:00 to 13:00 - Welsh Government Pavilion at Builth Wells Royal Welsh showground.

Action Number	Action Detail	Item	Status
Action 1.	<redacted s40(2)> to set up individual supplier meetings to discuss review of project targets in the new year.	3	
Action 2.	Suppliers to review current open caseload and close inactive participants.	3	
Action 3.	Adferiad to share case studies of Cwtch Bear with <redacted s40(2)>	4	