

# Factsheet

## Information for Providers in preparation for the delivery of sector-based work academies

V1 May 2011

### What are sector-based work academies?

Sector-based work academies are one of the Get Britain Working measures and are part of the wider Jobcentre Plus Employer Offer. They will be introduced in England from August 2011 and driven by local labour market demand to meet the requirements of customers and employers.

These sector-based work academies will:

- run for a maximum of six weeks and consist of three elements: pre employment training; a work experience placement with an employer; and guaranteed job interview
- provide occupational specific training that leads to the achievement of units on the Qualifications and Credit Framework appropriate to the entry requirements of the jobs available locally
- be available to JSA and ESA WRAG claimants, aged 18 plus\*, that are close to the labour market from day one of their claim until they enter the Work Programme
- be a voluntary programme until a claimant has agreed to participate, at which point the programme becomes mandatory
- be used as a stepping stone to an Apprenticeship, if required

The training element of sector-based work academies will be provided by colleges and other Skills Funding Agency training providers, including the newly announced ESF providers.

(\* Some colleges and providers may only be able to access funding for age 19+)

### Engaging with Jobcentre Plus

There is no ring-fenced funding for sector-based work academies training. It is imperative that Skills Funding Agency training providers engage and reach agreement with Jobcentre plus to ensure that sufficient pre-employment training is planned in the right sectors.

Jobcentre Plus Districts will already have identified and agreed pre-employment training requirements with some of their local Colleges and training providers. However, in some cases further discussions with Jobcentre Plus staff may be needed. It has been suggested to Jobcentre Plus staff that at these meetings they:

- share LMI to identify and agree the sector focus for local sector-based work academies
- design a high level programme of training provision to meet local labour market demand and the needs of employers
- agree how they will work with colleges and training providers on employer engagement, and link the work experience component to the training programmes

# Preparation for sector-based work academies

	<b>Suggested activities</b>
<b>Gather and share Labour Market Intelligence</b>	<p>Identify all available sources of labour market intelligence in order to build a picture of local labour demand that can be shared. Sources of information will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacancy trends and current vacancies (by sector)</li> <li>• Intelligence from Local Enterprise Partnerships and other local partnerships</li> <li>• Employer forums and networks</li> <li>• District Employer and Partnership Teams/Employer Advisers</li> <li>• National Employer Services Team Knowledge Hub</li> </ul>
<b>Engage with Jobcentre Plus and other partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree local sector focus for sector-based work academies</li> <li>• Jobcentre Plus can be expected to share vacancy information and employer leads</li> <li>• Agree local planning assumptions on potential referral volumes across the academic year</li> <li>• Agree delivery programme from August 2011</li> </ul>
<b>Jobcentre Plus engaging with local employers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobcentre Plus have issued to their districts a 'preparing for sector-based work academies' <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> for District Employer and Partnership Teams, this will support your discussions with Jobcentre Plus colleagues.</li> </ul>
<b>Jobcentre Plus will raise the profile of sector based work academies with local partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobcentre Plus staff are currently considering where to give presentations to key external partners or employer representative groups</li> </ul>

For more information on all the Get Britain Working measures and sector-based work academies as they develop, Training Providers and employers can go to:

[www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform)