



Nottinghamshire Fit for Work Service Pilot

The Fit for Work Service (FFWS) is a joint Department of Health and Department for Work and Pensions initiative, which comprises a key element of the Government's Health, Work and Wellbeing Programme. The programme consists of ten pilot areas across the country that will test a range of services over the next 14 months aimed at retaining people with health problems at work.

The Nottinghamshire FFWS pilot involves delivery of services across three areas- Nottingham City, Mansfield and Ashfield. For all three areas, the Nottinghamshire pilot will consist of the following programmes:

- Support into Work - health services that will provide caseworker support to individuals in work with the aim of addressing health related issues;
- Working for Health - support to businesses, with partnership arrangements being developed with a number of partners who will raise awareness with small and medium enterprises (SME's).
- Work Survival – provision that will be commissioned to provide group based vocational rehabilitation across all three areas.

The pilot is planned to be fully operational across all areas by April 2010 and will run until March 2011. Evaluation of the pilot will be managed nationally.

Who is involved?

The Nottinghamshire FFWS Eligible Partnership consists of Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Jobcentre Plus and NHS Nottingham City, with GNP the accountable body and it will manage the performance of the pilot centrally. Governance is provided by the Nottinghamshire Health and Work Steering Group, which consists of partners across all three areas including Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Nottinghamshire County PCT, the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and Jobcentre Plus. The Health and Work Steering Group is jointly accountable to the Nottinghamshire: City and County Employment & Skills Board and the Working Nottingham Partnership.

How will the pilot work?

The Nottinghamshire FFWS will take a dual approach towards retaining people in employment by working with individuals and employers. For individuals it will focus not

just on sickness absentees but also with those identified as having a health problem which impacts on their performance at work. At all times it will work with the 'support gateways' that are already in place – primary care, IAPT services, Jobcentre Plus and NHS Direct. It will develop and co-ordinate a consistent FFWS 'offer' via a central information team.

The FFWS pilot will enable the expansion of the existing Nottingham City "Support into Work" and "Working for Health" model into Mansfield and Ashfield. A new "Work Survival" programme for those in need of 'low intensity' support to manage their health condition is in the process of being commissioned across all three areas. The FFWS model will allow all three elements to connect together to give one overall programme, allowing referrals from GPs, employers and individuals.

In brief, the elements are:-

- **Support into Work**- for Mansfield and Ashfield, this service will be commissioned through NHS Nottinghamshire County PCT and will be based on the current NHS Nottingham City IAPT multi-disciplinary health team model. This consists of specialist occupational therapists, including mental health nurses and physiotherapists and is a 1 -2-1 case management service. It will have the option to refer people to the Work Survival provision (see below);
- **Work Survival** - this service is a modular group based vocational rehabilitation provision, similar to the Pathways to Work condition management programme but for people still in employment, either off sick or struggling in work. It is based on a design that is to be a high volume/low intensity solution.
- **Working for Health**- is a support service, targeted at small to medium sized businesses, which raises awareness of health and wellbeing at work. This acts as a business engagement function to then refer onto more comprehensive business support and/or health support for individuals and their employers.

Work is currently underway to build on the existing activity in Nottingham City and to commission activity for an April start. A launch event is planned for May and regular electronic updates will be provided, along with briefings at events.

If you would like to receive further updates as these services get underway in Mansfield and Ashfield, please provide contact details to:- adminesb@gnpartnership.org.uk