

# WorkWell Programme Update

## 1. Background & Context

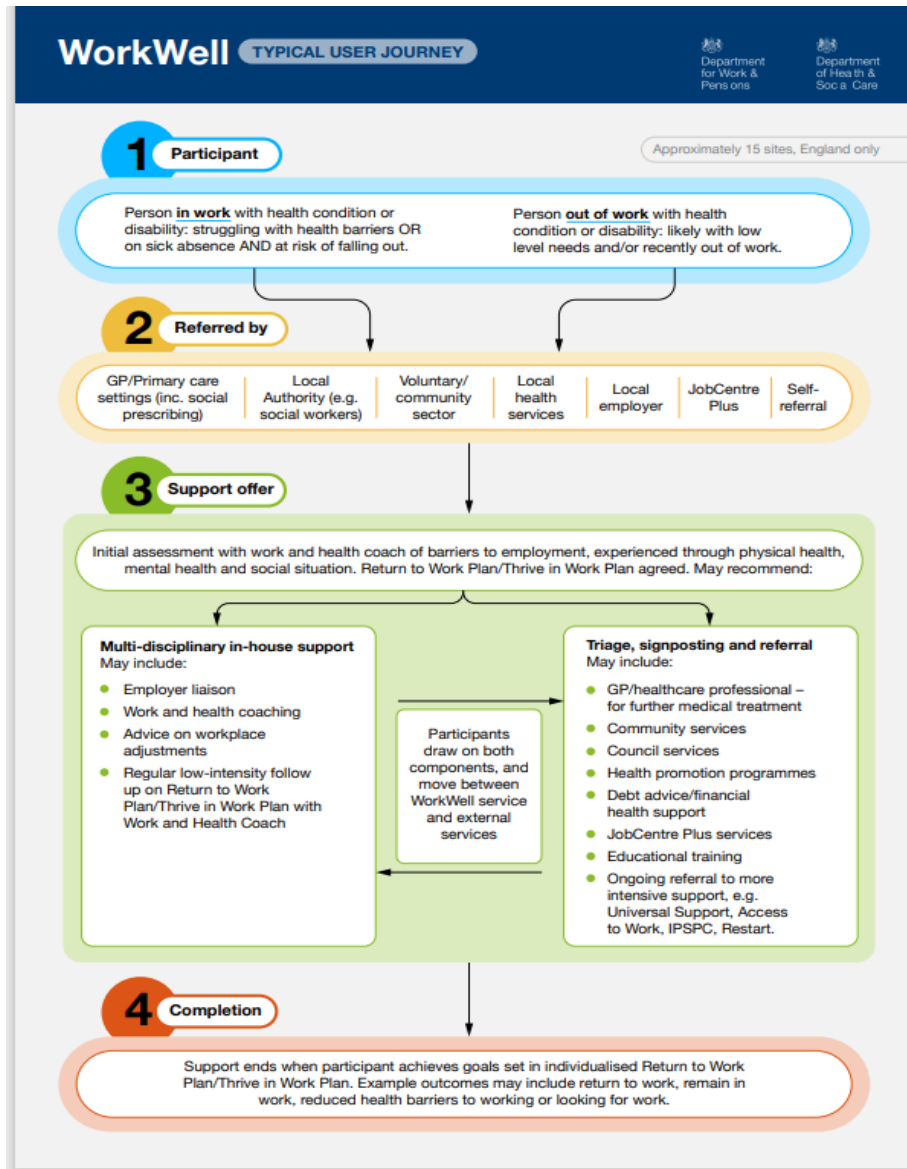
- 1.1 In January 2024 members of Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) gave their support to the development of a Vanguard Bid to the national WorkWell programme. An application was submitted in February 2024 and we received confirmation that the bid had been successful in June 2024. This paper provides members with an update on progress being made to mobilise the programme, the governance arrangements being put in place and the opportunity for leadership and direction from the ICP on this important agenda.
- 1.2 WorkWell is a joint Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) programme that seeks to provide holistic support to overcome health-related barriers to employment, and a single, joined-up gateway to other support services. The focus is on early intervention, supporting those who are at risk of falling out of employment and those who have recently fallen out of work due to health issues.
- 1.3 The Vanguard will provide an investment of £4,578,500 during 2024-26 and will support 5,000 people across Lancashire & South Cumbria. The programme will be delivered in 7 districts which have significantly high levels of economic inactivity and large numbers within the eligible cohort. Mobilisation plans have been developed with District and Upper Tier Authorities over the summer and delivery will commence in October 2024.
- 1.4 In addition to providing personalised support to individuals, the WorkWell programme has a core objective to build on local partnerships to better integrate work and health initiatives. A Work & Health Programme Board will be established in Autumn 2024 to provide the cross-sectoral strategic leadership required to develop and implement a fully integrated and inclusive work and health strategy for Lancashire & South Cumbria which aligns with our Integrated Care Strategy.
- 1.5 At the January ICP meeting members agreed to provide strategic oversight of the WorkWell programme in order to strengthen and support delivery of the 'Working Well' priority within the Integrated Care Strategy. It is proposed that a future ICP 'Deep Dive' workshop session is dedicated to work & health in order to explore this agenda in more detail and to capitalise on collaborative opportunities that will lead to improvements in outcomes for our residents and communities.

## 2. Work Well: A Reminder of the Programme Approach

- 2.1 WorkWell is an early-intervention work and health support and assessment service which aims to provide holistic support to address health related barriers to employment. The programme will provide lower-level intervention for people at risk of falling out of work or for those who have had to stop working because of a health

condition. Within the programme there is a strong emphasis on providing a single, joined-up view and gateway into services that are available locally to meet the specific needs of individuals.

2.2 The way in which WorkWell services are expected to function is summarised below in a diagram that captures the 'Typical Client Journey'.



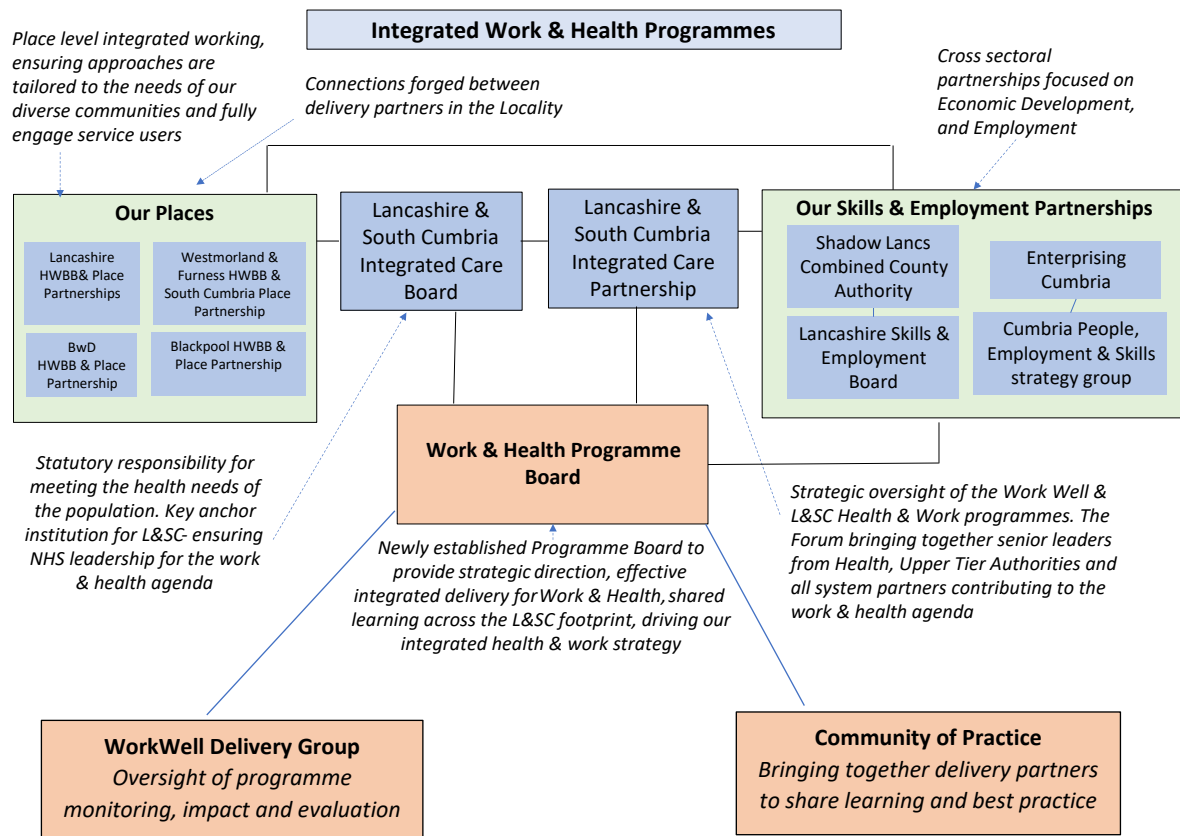
2.3 Data analysis and insight work undertaken by the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and Westmorland/Furness Council guided the development of the bid. Due to current levels of high economic inactivity and the size of eligible cohorts, the programme will be delivered in:

- Barrow-in-Furness
- Blackburn with Darwen
- Blackpool
- Burnley
- Lancaster

- Preston
- West Lancashire (Skelmersdale)

### **3. Mobilisation & Governance**

- 3.1 A significant amount of work has taken place over the summer to mobilise plans for delivery. The programme has been led by a core team from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub. Recruitment is currently underway for a Programme Manager who will be employed through the ICB. Additional support for data analysis, monitoring and assurance is being provided centrally through the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and the Commissioning Support Unit (CSU).
- 3.2 Although there is a consistent blueprint for WorkWell delivery models, each District/ Upper Tier Authority has had flexibility to build their model with local partners, building on local assets and existing infrastructure and reflecting the specific needs of their populations and target cohorts. Council leads are working with a wide range of partners to develop referral routes, deploy work and health coaches and to connect to relevant support services. Many of the areas have identified VCFSE lead delivery partners which include Lancashire Mind, Active Lancashire, Lancaster CVS and Active Blackpool.
- 3.3 A WorkWell Delivery Group is being established which will involve key partners in providing oversight of the programme and connecting to the individual places, districts and delivery organisations to share learning through a Community of Practice. The ICB is the accountable organisation for the Work Well programme and will therefore receive regular updates from the Delivery Group via the Chair and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the programme.
- 3.4 A Work & Health Programme Board will be established in the Autumn to focus on the development of an integrated strategy for work and health and to capitalise on the combined contributions that all partners can bring to tackling economic inactivity across Lancashire & South Cumbria. This work will contribute to the objectives within the 'Working Well' domain of our Integrated Care Strategy and therefore strategic oversight and connectivity will be provided through the ICP, as agreed in the January meeting. It is proposed that updates are provided to the ICP through the Working Well domain of the Integrated Care Strategy, with the Domain Sponsor and SRO providing connecting points.
- 3.5 A 'Wiring Diagram' outlining the programme governance is provided below.



#### 4. Next Steps and Ask of the Integrated Care Partnership

- 4.1 The WorkWell programme brings a significant level of investment into the Lancashire & South Cumbria system and places a renewed focus on the links between work and health. The ICP is uniquely placed to bring together partners on this agenda, aligned to its fourth purpose, 'to help the NHS support broader social and economic development'.
- 4.2 It is proposed that a future meeting of the ICP is used to enable deeper conversations on work & health through a facilitated workshop in order to explore the role that the ICP can play in galvanising system leadership and collaborative action on this topic. We will be seeking to reflect the strong connection between the ICP and wider system governance and delivery groups in the membership of the Work & Health Programme Board and would expect the 'Domain Sponsor' for Working Well to be a member of this board.
- 4.3 Members are asked to note the programme update and support the recommendation to hold a more detailed workshop discussion on the topic of work and health at a future meeting.