



# Future Employment Support

Graeme Fitzjohn – AKG Head of Strategic Partnerships  
Natasha Harvey – AKG Business Development Director  
Steve Howe – AKG Head of Delivery Partners

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

## AGENDA

- Future Employment Support – update from DWP Webinars
- CPAs of interest
- Developing a delivery partnership
- Our approach to managing and supporting delivery partners
- How we want to engage with you
- Q&A

# DWP 'Future Employment Support' - Recap

## Mandatory participation

- Long term unemployed 25+ access at 12 months on Universal Credit
- Young People 18-24 access at 6 months on Universal Credit

## Voluntary participation at any point in Universal Credit claim:

- Lone Parents and lead carers
- Disadvantaged Groups

## Support will include:

- Employability support, e.g skills training or work experience opportunities for those with a lack of or no recent work experience.
- Matching Participants with employers through work trials, jobs fairs and job brokering.
- Intensive and repeated support with drafting of CVs, job applications and interviewing skills.
- Support in managing health conditions in the workplace (e.g. mental health; musculoskeletal/physical injury; chronic/systemic health conditions).
- Barrier-based support for complex issues (e.g. housing, transport, childcare).
- Specialist support (e.g. ESOL, addiction problems and neurodiversity).
- Support for Self-Employment

- Mandatory minimum **25% of total contract value going to SME subcontractors for the delivery of services.** DWP aspirational target of 40% spend going to VCSEs and SMEs
- Payment Model – **70% PBR and 30% Service Fee.** 70% of the Service Fee paid in the first 24mths.

- DWP Codesigning with Mayoral Strategic Authorities
- Referral period of 3 years with option to extend for further 2 years
- Procurement is expected to formally start on 26 Nov 2026
- Indicative £1.2bn, 395k starts

**Disadvantaged groups include:** Ex-offenders, including person serving community sentence; ex-carers; those experienced, experiencing or at risk of homelessness; veterans; those with current or previous drug/alcohol dependency; care leavers; refugees; victims of domestic abuse; young people involved in or at risk of serious violence; victims of modern slavery

# Longlist of CPAs of interest

Volumes are indicative

Current Restart delivery

Other services delivered by AKG businesses

CPA 4: **West Midlands**, **Staffordshire**,  
Worcestershire, Herefordshire, **Shropshire**  
and **Warwickshire**  
**50,000 starts**

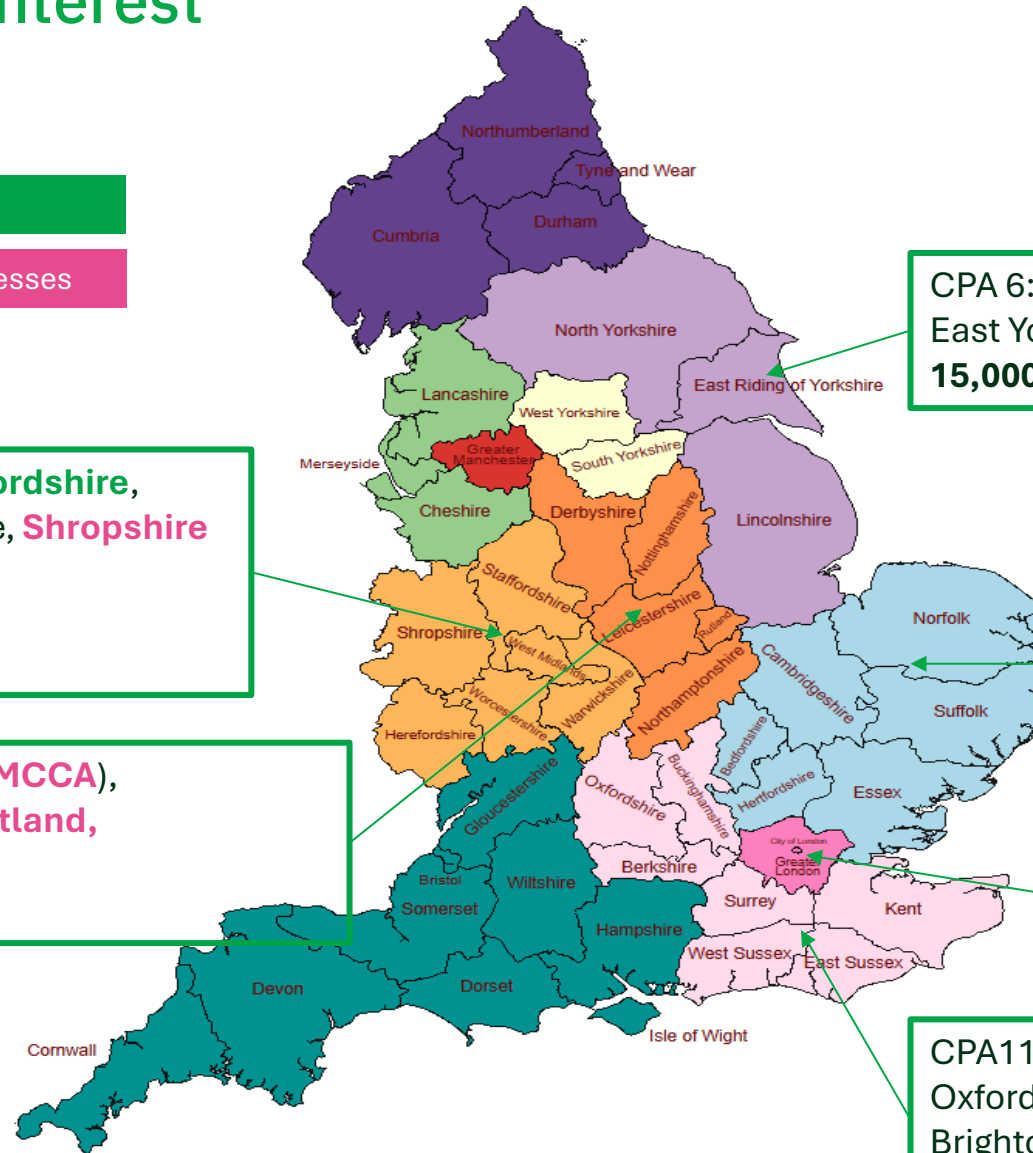
CPA 8 East Midlands (**EMCCA**),  
**Northamptonshire**, **Rutland**,  
**Leicestershire**  
**30,000 starts**

CPA 6: York and North Yorkshire, **Hull** and  
East Yorkshire and **Greater Lincolnshire**  
**15,000 starts**

CPA12 Essex, Norfolk and **Suffolk**,  
Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and  
**Peterborough**, **Bedfordshire**  
**35,000 starts**

London:  
CPA1: Central and West **60,000 starts**  
CPA 2: **South** and Local. **35,000 starts**

CPA11 Berkshire, **Buckinghamshire** and  
Oxfordshire, **Kent**, Surrey & Sussex and  
Brighton  
**35,000 starts**



Contract start numbers are indicative

# Developing a delivery partnership



## AKG's Specialisms



## What we are looking to do

- Provide a consistent and equitable service across each CPA geography
- Collaborate and build a model involving delivery partners
- Work with delivery partners who can demonstrate they understand the characteristics, opportunities and needs of their local areas
- Ensure our delivery partnership complements local GBW Plans and other local priorities
- Encourage the participation of local, small and specialist suppliers in our supply chain.

# Identifying a delivery partnership



Mapping each CPA



Affordability, VfM



E2E, specialist, cohort specific



Performance, quality, values

*Empathy, Integrity, Connected, Empowerment*



Due Diligence



Ensure a clear rationale for our partnership



Our approach to managing and supporting  
delivery partners

Steve Howe – Head of Delivery Partners

# Our Approach



- One Team Approach



- Experienced Operators



- Support & Challenge



- Clear Expectations & Processes



- Support of wider AKG Teams and Services



- Champion your expertise and wider offer



- Tools to enhance delivery and performance



- Sharing Best Practice



- Delivery Partners involved in Continuous Improvement



- AKG Family

How we want to engage with you

# How we want to engage with you

| AKG Activity                                                                                                                                                                                             | AKG Dates                                      | DWP Activity                         | DWP Dates                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Please complete our EOI</b><br>AKG Expression of Interest: Future Employment Support – Fill out form<br><a href="https://akguk.co.uk/partnership-portal/">https://akguk.co.uk/partnership-portal/</a> | EOI open until<br>28 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 |                                      |                                                                 |
| <b>With consideration of our model, we'll make contact to discuss your service delivery</b>                                                                                                              | <b>August – September 2026</b>                 |                                      |                                                                 |
| <b>Draw up NDAs, Commitments to further engage, Letters of Intent</b>                                                                                                                                    | <b>September – October 2026</b>                | Market Engagement Event 3            | September 2026                                                  |
| <b>CPA-based Co-Design Workshops</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>October – November 2026</b>                 | Stage 1 submission period            | 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 – 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026 |
| <b>RFI from shortlisted Delivery Partners</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>February – April 2027</b>                   | Stage 2 submission period            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2027 – 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2027  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | Stage 2 Commercial Dialogue Sessions | 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2027 – 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2027          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | <b>Publish final ITT</b>             | <b>13<sup>th</sup> May 2027</b>                                 |
| <b>Finalise Delivery Partner Agreements</b>                                                                                                                                                              | <b>May – June 2027</b>                         | Stage 3 BAFO submission period       | 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2027 – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2027          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | Stage 3 Evaluation complete          | 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2027                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | Issue Contract Award Notice          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2027                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | Contracts signed by                  | 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2027 – 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2027    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                | <b>Service Go Live</b>               | <b>7<sup>th</sup> February 2028</b>                             |

Q&A

## Contact Details:

Email – [bd@akguk.co.uk](mailto:bd@akguk.co.uk)

To register on AKG UK's Partnership Portal -  
<https://akguk.co.uk/about-us/partner-with-us/#join>