

Does your
partner claim
benefit?

Jobcentre Plus
can help

This leaflet is no longer current.
You can find up to date information on GOV.UK

Would you like help to find a job?

Getting a job can bring in more money for your family. It can also give you much more independence, more confidence, new skills and the chance to meet new people, and to do something different.

You might not be in a position to start work right now. For example, you may not be able to find or afford suitable childcare. Jobcentre Plus can help you to tackle issues like these. This could make your life easier and open up new opportunities.

Who can get help?

If you and your partner have a 'joint claim' for Jobseeker's Allowance (that is, you both claim) then this leaflet is **not** for you. As part of a joint claim, you'll already be getting help from a personal adviser at Jobcentre Plus.

With other benefits, your partner may claim and get extra money for you. Jobcentre Plus can help you think about work. The help we offer is optional, so you can choose if you want to take part or not.

You can get help from Jobcentre Plus if your partner claims:

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Carer's Allowance
- Pension Credit, or
- Working Tax Credit.

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

What kind of help will I get?

You will work with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser, who is there to talk through your situation, give advice, and help you to find whatever support you need.

Your personal adviser can help you take your first steps towards finding and applying for the right job for you.

Many people find the thought of starting a job worrying, especially if they have been out of work for some time, or have never worked.

Your personal adviser will talk to you about the extra help that you may get, such as help to write a CV, prepare for interviews, build your confidence or update your work skills.

Jobcentre Plus could arrange a work trial, where you have the chance to try a job for up to 30 days to see if it's right for you. This won't affect your partner's benefits.

Your adviser can discuss and agree with you the support you need to get into work. This might be help with travel costs if you go for a job interview, or support to go on a training course.

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Will I be better off?

You need to be sure that the amount you could earn will be more than the benefits your partner already gets, and will cover the cost of childcare if you need it.

We can help you work out how much you would need to earn for you and your family to be better off, and tell you about benefits and credits you can get while you are working.

What if I already work part time?

If you have a part-time job, Jobcentre Plus could help you to increase your hours or move into full-time work if you want. We'll make sure you can meet a personal adviser at times to fit in with your working hours.

What about looking after my children?

Obviously, making sure your children are properly looked after is your main priority. So if a job would mean you are out of the house when your children are not at school, you might need to pay for childcare.

Lots of people worry about leaving their children with someone else, or that it will cost far too much, so it is important to put your mind at rest about this before you start.

We can give advice and help with finding local childcare that is affordable and that you can trust. You can also find good quality childcare such as registered childminders, playgroups and nurseries through the Family Information Service.



Go to:
www.direct.gov.uk/childcare

We may also be able to help with the full cost of childcare:

- when you come in to talk to us (or you can bring your children with you)
- when you go to job interviews
- while you're on a training course that we've arranged for you
- while you're at work (if you take a part-time job working less than 16 hours a week, we can help with the childcare costs for up to a year), or
- in the week before you start a job, to give you time to prepare for going back to work.

Remember - we can help you work out how much you would need to earn for you and your family to be better off, and tell you about benefits and credits you can get while you are working.

What if I am caring for someone?

If you are caring for someone and want to look for paid work, we may help with the cost of getting someone else to care for them. This may be while you're at a job interview, or on a training course that we've arranged for you.

To qualify, you must:

- be aged 18 or over
- not be working, or be working less than 16 hours a week, and
- spend a large part of your time giving unpaid support or care to a relative, partner or friend who is disabled, has poor physical or mental health, or has a drug or drink problem.

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What if I don't have the skills to do the job I want?

With the right training and support, you can find a job that you really enjoy and which gives you a lot of satisfaction.

There is a whole range of different kinds of training open to you. Your personal adviser can tell you about college courses and the training you would need for different jobs, and can help you find the right course.

We may arrange help with the cost of course fees, travel or childcare. If you go on training that we've arranged, you may also get money for books and equipment you may need.

What if I'm ill or disabled?

Your personal adviser can put you in touch with specialist help if you have a health condition or disability.

Support even after you've found a job

Your personal adviser will keep in touch with you for the first few weeks after you start work, to help you over any problems that come up.

Useful information

Jobcentre Plus

To arrange to meet a personal adviser, call Jobcentre Plus on **0845 604 3719** (textphone **0845 608 8551**).

Your personal adviser may give you their business card so that you can contact them directly.

To look for work

If you are looking for work, you can search our list of jobs online at **www.direct.gov.uk/jobsearch**

Call charges

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to **0845** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 8p a minute with a 13p call set up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p a minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

You can ask us to call you back if you're concerned about the cost of the call.

Textphones

If you have a textphone because you can't speak or hear clearly, there are different numbers for each service listed in this leaflet. These numbers don't accept voice calls or text messages from mobile phones.

We're always looking for ways to improve our leaflets. If you have any comments or suggestions about this leaflet, email us at: leaflet.feedback@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

This email address is only used for leaflet comments. We cannot answer questions about your pension or benefit.

Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of February 2012. It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

You can find more information from DWP about benefits and pensions online.



For benefits information go to
www.direct.gov.uk/benefits



For pensions information go to
www.direct.gov.uk/pensions

This information is available in other formats on request.



Phone **0845 731 3233**
Textphone **0845 604 0210**

DWP aims to provide a high quality of service to all its customers. You can find out more in our customer charter at
www.direct.gov.uk/dwpcharter