

Employment Programme Support Official Statistics

Background

The government has introduced a number of schemes to provide help and training to people looking for work. This includes:

- replacing many existing welfare to work programmes with a single programme to help all unemployed people on a variety of benefits to get back to work;
- making sure that contracts with welfare to work providers are based more closely on the results they achieve in getting people back to work;
- helping unemployed people who want to become self-employed with support from business mentors and financial help;
- offering pre-employment training and work placements for unemployed people;
- developing local work clubs where unemployed people can share skills and make contacts

Details

The **Work Programme** is administered by external providers following referral by Jobcentre Plus, whereas other **Pre-Work Programme** schemes are provided by Jobcentre Plus ahead of the customer being referred to the Work Programme. Post-Work Programme schemes are provided by Jobcentre Plus and also administered by external providers following referral from Jobcentre Plus.

The information below provides details of this Work Programme, Pre-Work Programme and Post-Work Programme Support.

Work Programme

The Work Programme is an integrated package of support providing personalised work-focused help for a wide range of benefit claimants. Both Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants are eligible at various stages of their claims depending on their circumstances. The support is delivered by public, private and voluntary sector organisations, working under contract to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These organisations tailor services to what works best for the individual benefit claimants in helping them back in to sustained work.

The focus of the Work Programme is on supporting participants to achieve sustained employment. Participants are supported by the Work Programme for two years. Providers receive job outcome payments when a participant has been in work for either three or six months, depending on the participant's circumstances.

Once a job outcome payment has been paid, providers will receive sustainment payments for each subsequent continuous four week period the participant spends in employment up to a maximum of two years, depending on the participant's circumstances.

Pre-Work Programme

The Government has introduced a range of support for benefit claimants arranged by Jobcentre Plus through the following Pre-Work Programme measures:

- **Work experience** providing young people with the opportunity to gain an insight into the world of work; launched in January 2011;
- **New Enterprise Allowance:** helping unemployed people who want to start their own business rolled out in target areas from April 2011, and nationally from August 2011; and
- **Sector-based work academies:** offering sector-specific pre-employment training, work experience placements and a guaranteed job interview in sectors with current local vacancies from August 2011.

There are also some mandatory programmes administered by Jobcentre Plus designed to ensure that claimants are fully meeting all their requirements under Jobseekers' Allowance (and Employment and Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Group for Skills Conditionality). Attendance on these programmes is mandatory for claimants referred:

- **Mandatory Work Activity** began in spring 2011 and aims to help claimants develop the disciplines and behaviours associated with employment, such as regular, timely attendance, doing specific tasks and working under supervision. Placements also deliver a contribution to the local community;
- **Skills Conditionality** began in summer 2011 in England and summer 2012 in Scotland and aims to address identified skills needs where these are the main barriers preventing the claimant from finding employment.

The Youth Contract was introduced in April 2012 to provide additional support for young people aged 18-24. Since April 2015 this support has been offered through the Youth Offer.

Post-Work Programme

Help to Work (Post-Work Programme Support)

Help to Work is a post Work Programme employment support scheme. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who have not secured lasting employment after two years on the Work Programme are required to participate and will be referred to one of three options, Daily Work Search Reviews (DWSR), Mandatory Intervention Regime (MIR) and Community Work Placements (CWP) aimed at removing barriers to work for those hardest to help. The support is delivered by Jobcentre and also private organisations working under contract to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The focus of Help to Work is on supporting participants to achieve sustained employment after having been on the Work Programme for two years. Providers receive a fee when a participant starts a Community Work Placement, a short completion fee when the participant completes between 12-21 weeks in employment, a long completion fee for between 22 and

26 weeks in employment and a job outcome fee if a participant is in employment for 26 week or longer.