

DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – January 2013

Welcome to the January 2013 issue of the DWP Stakeholder Bulletin.

If you have any comments or feedback, please email [DWP Corporate Stakeholders](#). To subscribe to future editions, please go to the [DWP Stakeholder Bulletin subscription page](#).

Contents

Wage incentives now available nationally through Jobcentre Plus	1
Youth Contract campaign	1
Access to Work - New start up support for disabled entrepreneurs	2
Universal Jobmatch	2
Enrolling people into a workplace pension	2
Child poverty measurement consultation	3
Future of the Independent Living Fund	3
Right to Control pilot	3
Benefit cap	4
DWP consultations	4

Wage incentives now available nationally through Jobcentre Plus

Employers who take on an 18-to-24-year-old unemployed person can now claim a wage incentive of up to £2,275 through Jobcentre Plus in England, Scotland and Wales. This more than covers the cost of a year's national insurance contributions for an individual.

Wage incentives continue to be available through the Work Programme. They are also available to employers who recruit a young disabled person through the Work Choice programme.

Employers interested in taking on a young person should [contact Jobcentre Plus](#) or their local [Work Programme](#) or [Work Choice](#) provider.

More information about [wage incentives](#), including the scheme's terms and conditions, is on the DWP website.

Youth Contract campaign

On 14 January 2013, the DWP campaign promoting support for small and medium employers through the Youth Contract launched in South Yorkshire and Birmingham, as well as continuing in North East England. Employers in these areas will hear and see how bringing in young people can help their business thrive.

The campaign includes:

- Radio advertisements promoting work experience and the wage incentive
- Press coverage showing how the Youth Contract has worked for local employers
- Local events that bring together employers and opportunities to employ young people in some of the most deprived youth unemployment hotspots.

More information about the [Youth Contract campaign](#) is on the DWP website.

Access to Work – New start up support for disabled entrepreneurs

From 14 January 2013, disabled people can get support through Access to Work when setting up their own business, if they are enrolled on the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA). The NEA provides expert coaching and financial support for jobseekers with a business idea.

The support aims to increase the number of self-employed disabled people in the UK from the current 500,000.

Access to Work support can help pay for specialised equipment, support workers and travel costs when setting up a business.

Information about the [New Enterprise Allowance](#) and [Access to Work](#) is available on the GOV.UK website.

Universal Jobmatch

DWP's new online job posting and matching service has been running for two months. As at 6 January 2013, over:

- 235,000 live jobs were being advertised
- 384,000 employers have created a Universal Jobmatch account
- 923,000 jobseekers have registered an account.

On average each day at the start of January, over 4.7 million job searches took place.

DWP has made improvements and fixed some technical issues with the service. Employers and jobseekers are benefiting from this streamlined new service.

More information about [Universal Jobmatch, including employer and jobseeker endorsements](#), is on the DWP website.

Enrolling people into a workplace pension

A reminder that all employers must enrol their eligible staff in a qualifying workplace pension scheme. This new responsibility is being introduced over six years, and started with the largest employers in October 2012. The date for enrolment depends on the size of the organisation.

Employers, and organisations giving advice to employers, should visit [The Pensions Regulator](#) website to check the date when enrolment needs to happen by, and the action to take.

Child poverty measurement consultation

On 15 November 2012, DWP's Secretary of State, Iain Duncan Smith, and Schools Minister, David Laws, jointly launched a consultation on child poverty measurement.

The current income-based measures of child poverty mean that a fall in national median income can lead to children moving out of poverty without their circumstances changing.

The consultation proposes a new way to measure child poverty that better reflects the reality of a child's life in poverty.

You can give your views on the following subjects:

- Income and material deprivation
- Worklessness
- Unmanageable debt
- Poor housing
- Parental skill level
- Access to quality education
- Family stability
- Parental health.

To take part in the [Child poverty measurement consultation](#) (by 15 February 2013), visit the Department for Education website, where [background information about Child poverty](#) is also available.

Future of the Independent Living Fund

The Government has responded to the public consultation on the future of the Independent Living Fund (ILF). The consultation asked for views on the proposal to close the ILF in 2015 and transfer funding to local authorities and the devolved administrations. It also looked at how the transfer of funding and responsibilities to local authorities could be managed in a way to ensure continuity of care and support for existing fund users.

The [ILF consultation response](#) is on the DWP website.

Right to Control pilot

The Right to Control pilot has been extended for a further 12 months, to December 2013.

Right to Control gives disabled adults a legal right to choose and control how money is spent to deliver certain services that support them. The pilot will continue to test the legal right's impact on disabled peoples' lives and participating agencies.

The extension gives DWP more time to gather information to inform decisions about the future of choice and control for disabled people. The information will be added to evidence already gathered during the [pilot's formal evaluation](#).

More information about [Right to Control](#) is on the Office for Disability Issues website.

Benefit cap

The benefit cap will be introduced from 15 April 2013, initially through a reduction in Housing Benefit. The cap will be applied in Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey Local Authority areas from this date and will be implemented in all other local authorities during summer 2013.

The phased roll-out allows DWP to:

- Test its systems and processes in a controlled live environment
- Make sure the supporting products and services for staff and claimants are effective
- Learn from, and respond to, issues raised in the first phase of roll-out to inform national rollout.

Further information about the [benefit cap](#) is on the GOV.UK website

DWP consultations

All live consultations and the latest published responses are available on the [consultation pages](#) of the DWP website.

There have been no new DWP consultations since the December edition.