

DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – August 2013

Welcome to the August 2013 issue of the DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – a newsletter to let you know what is happening in the Department for Work and Pensions.

If you have a comment or feedback about this bulletin, please email the [Strategic Engagement and Partnerships team](#).

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Drive to get more disabled people into mainstream jobs

Changes to the Government’s specialist disability employment scheme were announced on [16 July 2013](#). Disabled people on [traineeships](#), [supported internships](#), work trials and [sector-based work academies](#) will, for the first time, get extra help through Access to Work.

Self-Made Work Trials and Work Experience placements can also give a young disabled person time with a local company to show that they are suitable for a job, or to help build a CV and job skills.

The [Employer’s Guide to Access to Work](#) is now available to download from GOV.UK.

Consultation on DWP’s 2013 Commissioning Strategy

DWP has published a [consultation document](#) to support the development of its 2013 Commissioning Strategy. The Strategy will set out the high-level principles on how we work with partners and providers to deliver our welfare-to-work objectives, providing a strategic framework for commissioning.

The consultation period is running from 31 July 2013 until 27 September 2013. The Commissioning Strategy team will be attending external and cross-government groups and forums over the eight-week period. For more information about the consultation, including the forums and groups, or to arrange a meeting, contact the [Commissioning Strategy team](#).

Child Maintenance Service opens to more separated parents

The Child Maintenance Service (CMS) operates the new statutory child maintenance scheme. On 29 July 2013 the CMS opened to new applications from people with two or more children, where the children are from the same two parents.

DWP is testing the service with a controlled number of new applications before opening up to increasing numbers. It will be opened up to increasing numbers when this testing confirms that the service is working well.

Find out more about the [child maintenance reforms](#) and [download information](#) to use in communications (e.g. websites, leaflets) to clients and members of the public.

Universal Credit working with the Money Advice Service

DWP stakeholders play a vital role in supporting Universal Credit claimants, and the Department is now working with over 100 organisations, including the Prince's Trust, UK Online Centres and the Money Advice Service.

The Money Advice Service – an independent service set up by Government to help people manage their money better – has information on its [website](#), where partners can access budgeting support materials and the helpful '[Get ready for Universal Credit](#)' video which has so far had over 6,000 views on YouTube.

Universal Credit and the Money Advice Service are now working on plans to support claimants throughout national roll-out from October 2013. More information is available on [GOV.UK](#). To get involved, contact the [Universal Credit Communications team](#).

Disability Confident Campaign launched

A partnership between Government and business saw the first national Disability Employment Conference taking place on 18 July, which was attended by more than 300 employers.

The Conference marked the launch of a two-year advertising campaign – [Disability Confident](#), which aims to support employers to become more confident when recruiting and retaining disabled employees.

DWP worked with disabled people and partners from private and voluntary organisations to provide content and communications for the conference with the result that on the day the hashtag #DisabilityConfident was trending in the UK on Twitter, delivering a cumulative reach of 13.5 million.

Disputes process changes – a new outbound call to those disputing a decision

Changes to the disputes and appeals process will apply to all DWP benefits and child maintenance cases from 28 October 2013.

One of the changes is mandatory reconsideration of disputed decisions and as part of this change, DWP will make an additional call to those disputing a decision to give people an opportunity to discuss the decision and provide any further evidence.

If you advise people who may be affected by these changes, you may wish to let them know that from 28 October they can expect this new call.

Please note that as Personal Independence Payment and Employment and Support Allowance claimants already receive a call from DWP at an earlier stage, they may not receive a further call during reconsideration.

For further details please visit the [DWP website](#) or contact the [Benefits Delivery Programme Communications Team](#).

Welfare reform communications toolkit now on GOV.UK

Please note that the welfare reform communications toolkit has now moved from the DWP website to [GOV.UK](#). It helps explain how DWP is changing the welfare system, what we are changing, why we are making the changes and when we are making the changes. The toolkit is updated regularly.

If you have any questions about the welfare reform communications toolkit, please contact the [Strategic Engagement and Partnerships team](#).

DWP consultations

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

[Fourth independent review of the Work Capability Assessment \(WCA\)](#). Closes on 27 August 2013.

[DWP Commissioning Strategy 2013](#). Closes on 27 September 2013.

[Tax-Free Childcare](#). Closes on 14 October 2013.