

DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – February 2014

Welcome to the February 2014 issue of the DWP Stakeholder Bulletin.

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Universal Credit and Rented Housing

As Universal Credit continues to roll out this year, we remain committed to delivering support and information to ensure that all those who will be affected understand the changes taking place and are able to prepare.

To help with this, [The Universal Credit and Rented Housing Frequently Asked Questions](#) has been produced to consolidate all the information we have regarding how Universal Credit will affect landlords and tenants.

It has been produced primarily for private and social sector landlords so they understand what they can do to help their tenants prepare for the move to direct payments. It also explains how Universal Credit will ensure appropriate protections and safeguards are in place.

Health and Work Service

The commercial process to secure a supplier for the [Health and Work Service](#) (HWS) has begun. HWS will be introduced in late 2014 and will provide independent occupational health advice to all employers, GPs and employees.

Funding from the abolition of the Percentage Threshold Scheme in April 2014 will be reinvested into providing HWS, supporting a proactive approach to sickness absence management.

The service will consist of:

- Advice via telephone and internet. This will be available to everyone.
- Assessment by an occupational health professional, to identify any measures, steps or interventions that would facilitate a return to work. Recommendations for these will be included in a Return to Work Plan.

Extra support for terminally ill people

DWP is improving the [Personal Independence Payment](#) (PIP) claims process for people who are terminally ill with a new, separate, fast-track claims process. A dedicated telephone claim service will be introduced by the end of February. Claimants will still call the usual PIP claims number – 0800 917 2222 – but if they select option one, to make a new claim, and then option three from the recorded message, their call will be routed to a dedicated team so they can complete the claim process. DWP is encouraging claimants and their representatives to send a DS1500 form in support of their PIP claim as soon as possible, as this will help process the claim rapidly.

Community Data Toolkit

Disability groups and grassroots organisations could improve their chances of sourcing funding by accessing the [Community Data Toolkit](#).

In addition to explaining how to analyse and interpret data, the toolkit can help small organisations improve and evaluate services for their clients. Links to websites run by key data providers, such as the Office for National Statistics are also provided.

The toolkit is easily accessible and has been brought to life with a series of case studies and scenarios demonstrating how organisations can put the data to good use and how issues may affect their clients.

The toolkit was drafted by the Office for Disability Issues with the support of several charities and disabled groups including Scope, Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind and Merton Centre for Independent Living.

Disability Confident goes from strength to strength

DWP's first regional Disability Confident event of 2014 was held at the Steam Museum in Swindon and was opened by the Minister for Disabled People, Mike Penning with support from regional organisations, SEQOL and Pluss. Falklands War veteran, Simon Weston OBE was the guest of honour.

This was the second of seven regional events which will be taking place throughout the country over the coming months. Employers that attended the Swindon event included Nationwide, Royal Mail, Airbus, British Airways, Wiltshire Police and local authorities.

To find out more or to be involved in the campaign please [email](#) the Disability Confident campaign team.

DWP consultations

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

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

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