

# Freedom of Information request 203/2013

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## Information request

*I would like to request under the freedom of information act the current policy of the Derbyshire Mandatory Youth Activity Programme.*

## DWP response

The Derbyshire Mandatory Youth Activity Programme (DMYAP) is an employment programme designed to help young people with a limited work history gain the experience they need of work, help strengthen their CVs and enable them to compete more effectively in a more restricted job market. Whilst participating in the programme claimants continue to receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and are expected to continue to seek employment.

The trailblazer is running in the Derbyshire Jobcentre Plus district only and is targeted at 2,000 young people (18-24) reaching five months on JSA in 2012/13 and 2013/14, with scope for targeted early access. It has been developed within Derbyshire to meet the needs of the high numbers of young unemployed claiming JSA and to address employer feedback about young people's lack of understanding of the work place.

The pilot is being delivered by TBG Learning under a payment by results model, with TBG Learning incentivised to move claimants into sustainable employment.

DMYAP delivers eight weeks of full-time work based activity of 30 hours a week delivering community benefit and at least six hours a week of intensive job search support.

Claimants are mandated to DMYAP through the Jobseeker's Allowance (Employment, Skills and Enterprise Scheme) Regulations 2011. For claimants required to take part in DMYAP, fixed length sanctions are applied to their benefit if they fail to complete or participate in the scheme without good cause. Sanctions last for four weeks, rising to 13 weeks for a second breach.

DMYAP will be evaluated by a standard random allocation process with 50 per cent of the group referred to participate on the programme and 50 per cent who will continue to receive the Jobcentre Plus support.