



Department for Work & Pensions

DWP Partnership News West London

(Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon,
Hounslow, Kingston, Richmond & Wandsworth)

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Welcome to the **September 2023** Partnership Newsletter

I am available to provide DWP benefit awareness upskilling for your organisation. If you would like to discuss arranging a session, please do get in touch (alex.felstead@dwp.gov.uk).

Additionally, if you support individuals aged 50 plus, please feel free to contact our West London 50 Plus Champion, Toyosi Ogunshola, about employment & training opportunities (WestLondon.50PLUSChoices@dwp.gov.uk).

You are welcome to circulate this newsletter to any colleagues or other organisations which may benefit from DWP updates.

If you have any feedback regarding this communication, or wish to be added or removed from the distribution list, please contact:

westlondon.partnershipnews@dwp.gov.uk

DWP Business Updates

[Government announces employment support boost for over 30,000 economically inactive young people](#)

The expansion of the Youth Offer to inactive claimants, for the first time, will begin immediately to help young people into work and improve wellbeing.

[Consultation opens on Work Capability Assessment](#)

As part of Government's mission to support more people into work, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has today launched a consultation on changes to the Work Capability Assessment, following the landmark Health and Disability White Paper published earlier this year.

Changes represent the next step in welfare reform, reflecting the rise of flexible and home working and better employer support for disabled people and people with health conditions.

Changes also reflect that one in five of those with no work preparation requirements would like to work at some point in the future, with the right support.

A consultation on changes to the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) opened on Tuesday 5 September 2023 and will run for eight weeks until Monday 30 October 2023.

The consultation seeks views from the public, charities, employers and other interested parties on proposed changes to the WCA to better reflect the changing world of work and opportunities for flexible and home working. It is open for anyone to comment.

You can find more detail on [the consultation proposals and how to respond](#) on GOV.UK.

[Winter Fuel Payment 2023/24](#)

As part of the Government Cost of Living campaign, we've produced a short Winter Fuel Payment video with audio, subtitles and chapters, so customers can go directly to the section they need.

The video is also available in [Welsh](#) and [British Sign Language](#).

25,000 people to be helped into work as government ramps up roll-out of flagship Universal Support scheme

- New support starting from 13 September 2023 will help 25,000 out of work long-term sick and disabled people who face barriers to employment.
- £53 million for scheme designed to help people find and sustain jobs through personal adviser-based support. This comes as part of the first phase of the Universal Support employment programme, announced in the Spring Budget.

Backed by £53 million in funding, the new scheme will provide personalised help to people facing complex barriers to work across England and Wales as part of the Government's plan to tackle economic inactivity and spread the benefits of employment more widely.

Participants will be identified and referred by work coaches as well as contracted providers and it is expected to have helped 25,000 people move towards employment by September 2024.

Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 10 August 2023

Official statistics for the number of claims, starts, people and households on Universal Credit.

Work and Health Programme statistics to May 2023

Quarterly Official Statistics release of Work and Health Programme data. Applies to England and Wales.

Government response: Social Security Advisory Committee report on the future of working age contributory benefits for those not in paid work

The government's response to the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) report about the future of working age contributory benefits for those not in paid work.

Other News & Information

Communities urged to apply for funding to save local institutions

Pubs, community halls, gardens, sports clubs and other treasured locations across the UK can benefit from up to £2 million in government funding each through the Community Ownership Fund, which is open again for applications. Information on the [fund's eligibility requirements is outlined in the prospectus](#) which also includes [information on how organisations can apply](#).

Childcare settings receive cash boost as funding rates increase

Nurseries and childminders across the country will be paid more for every government-funded hour they provide to parents.

Adventures Away From Home Fund

The outdoor learning sector provides numerous benefits for young people, which is why the government has announced 'adventures away from home' as a key component of the National Youth Guarantee.

This fund will deliver bursaries for approximately 7,500 young people aged 11-18 and up to age 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are experiencing hardship or are otherwise vulnerable, and are therefore underrepresented in the sector to take part in outdoor learning activities.

Support for under-21s from Ukraine, Afghanistan & Hong Kong

Vulnerable young people and children from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong will receive vital mental health support through a new £2.5 million fund.

Wilko in administration: information for employees and creditors

Wilko went into administration on 10 August 2023. This page provides advice and information to employees, customers or suppliers of Wilko.

Thousands more beds to help rough sleepers off the streets

£34.6 million awarded across London and over 70 other areas to support rough sleepers.

Refugee Employability Programme

The Refugee Employability Programme (REP) is a Home Office initiative for the specific needs of refugees, to give them the support they need to find work and build their lives in the England. It aims to remove barriers which cannot be fully addressed by mainstream services.

Three types of support are provided:

- Employment support
 - English language
 - Integration support.
-

Almost 430,000 young people urged to claim their cash

Hundreds of thousands of young adults age 18-21 could have an average of £2,000 waiting for them in their unclaimed Child Trust Fund account.

Children's social care reform accelerates with more support for care leavers

The [staying close programme](#) provides a package of continued support and [guidance to young people leaving care](#). This includes ensuring they have accommodation, resources and practical and emotional help provided by a member of staff from their former children's home, to help them thrive as independent adults.

The 27 local authorities have been awarded £27 million to run the staying close programme, taking the programme to a total of 47 local authorities nationally, worth £53 million overall. This [funding](#) means more care leavers than ever before will have access to this support.

Advice for decision making: staff guide

Advice for DWP decision makers on Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and contribution-based Jobseekers Allowance and Employment Support Allowance for people who are eligible for Universal Credit.

Access to Work Plus referrals

How to refer someone you are supporting for Access to Work Plus if they have high in-work support needs.

Pre-employment checks for health and care volunteers - consultation

Seeks views on the proposal to remove the statutory requirement for a full employment history when appointing volunteers in health and care settings.

The consultation asks whether the full employment history requirement poses challenges to the appointment process and whether it is necessary to inform appointment decisions. We're also seeking to understand whether the remaining required pre-employment checks would be enough to ensure the suitability of volunteer applicants.

We're seeking views from:

- service providers
 - volunteer managers
 - voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, and more
-

Free courses for jobs: provider list

Details of the colleges and training providers that are making free level 3 qualifications available to eligible adults has been updated.

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Benefit Updates

Second 2023/24 Cost of Living payment dates announced

On 20 September 2023 it was announced that millions of UK households will get the second Cost of Living payment from 31 October 2023.

DWP will make the second Cost of Living payment of £300 to eligible customers between 31 October 2023 and 19 November 2023.

This is the second of three payments over the financial year totalling up to £900. Eligible pensioner households will also receive a further £300 payment later this year as an addition to the Winter Fuel payment.

Eligible tax credit only customers who do not qualify for a payment from DWP will receive £300 from HMRC between 10 and 19 November 2023.

Customers will receive the payments automatically. They do not need to contact DWP or do anything to receive the payment.

A [Cost of Living video](#) is also available on X (formerly Twitter).

For further information about the government's cost of living support package, please visit [Help for Households](#) on GOV.UK.

Read further details in the [Cost of Living](#) press release published 20/9/23.

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Reports & Statistics

[Labour market overview - September 2023](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published its latest labour market figures, providing estimates of employment, unemployment, the number of vacancies and other employment-related statistics for the UK. Visit the ONS website to read the [September 2023 labour market overview](#).

[Economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over, trends over time: September 2023](#)

Statistics showing the trends over time in the economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 1 September 2023](#)

Early experimental data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.

[Qualitative research with Universal Credit telephone claimants](#)

This research aims to develop an understanding of Universal Credit telephone claims and what the benefits and drawbacks are compared to online claim management.

[Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: September 2023](#)

These are experimental monthly estimates of payrolled employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data. This is a joint release between HMRC and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The increase in payrolled employees between August 2022 and August 2023 was largest in the health and social work sector with a rise of 193,000 employees, and smallest in the wholesale and retail (repair of motor vehicles) sector with a fall of 19,000.

Reducing Parental Conflict programme 2018 to 2022: an evaluation of the effects of interventions

This report provides results from the evaluation of the 7 interventions tested under the 2018 to 2022 Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme evaluation.

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 7 September 2023

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) to deliver real-time information to help assess issues affecting UK business survey (BICS) to deliver real-time information to help assess issues affecting UK businesses and economy, including financial performance, workforce, trade, and business resilience.

Apprenticeships and traineeships: September 2023

Monthly apprenticeship starts in England from August 2022 to June 2023.

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Support on Offer

Support if you're in work

If you're in work or self-employed and on a low income, Universal Credit could still support you and top-up your wages.

You will be able to access dedicated support from a work coach, if you need one. They will help you find a new job or see if you can increase how much you earn.

Help and support for older workers

To enable those aged 50 and over, through early and targeted employment, skills and employer led support to stay in, progress or return to work and to build their future financial resilience and wellbeing.

Age-friendly Employer Pledge

The Age-friendly Employer Pledge is a nationwide programme for employers who recognise the importance and value of older workers. Employers commit to improving work for people in their 50s and 60s and taking the necessary action to help them flourish in a multigenerational workforce.

Finding Work at 50 Plus

Are you out of work, facing redundancy or looking to start jobseeking again? We can help.

Support to help you get job ready and find work

Want to improve your chances in finding work? Unsure of your options? Not sure where to start? Visit Job Help to see what support is available.

Recruitment & Training Events

Jobcentres in West London host regular events with amazing employment and training opportunities for all! Speak to your Work Coach to find out more.

Benefit Awareness Sessions

Please get in touch via email if you would like to attend any of the below sessions – all sessions are delivered via MS Teams.

- **Universal Credit** – Wednesday 22nd November at 10:00am
- **Personal Independence Payment** – Monday 27th November at 10:00am

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Additional Resources

Keep Updated

Touch Base

Touchbase is produced weekly and circulated to subscribers every Friday providing a roundup of recent DWP announcements. Click on this link to [Subscribe to Touchbase](#)

Press Releases

[Subscribe](#) and receive email alerts from GOV.UK. A search filter can be added for DWP.

Local Authorities - Housing Benefit

[LA Welfare Direct bulletins: 2023 - GOV.UK](#) - These LA Welfare Direct bulletins provide information that affects Housing Benefit and other areas of DWP to local authority staff. Click on 'Get Emails about this page' to receive an alert when a new bulletin is issued.

Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter)

[@JCPinLondon](#) – Posting jobs and job seeking advice 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Every Friday at 2pm we run our **#FocusOnWestLondon** feature, where we exclusively post **#WestLondonJobs** for 90 minutes.

Useful Links

[Understanding Universal Credit](#) – An overview of Universal Credit.

[Help to Claim](#) – Help to Claim is funded by the DWP and delivered by Citizens Advice to provide tailored support for new claims to Universal Credit.

[Universal Credit toolkit](#) – Detailed information about Universal Credit, covering information for claimants, stakeholders and partners, landlords and employers.

[Universal Credit: Health conditions and disability guide](#) – This guide will help

[Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\) toolkit](#) – A guide to help organisations and people in support roles explain Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and changes to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to claimants.

[Pension Credit toolkit](#) – Use this collection of materials to help older people understand how they could get Pension Credit.

[Help for Households](#) – See what support is available to help with the cost of living and save money with our energy saving tips.

[Easy read: Tell Us Once](#) – Tell Us Once helps you let most government departments and local councils know when someone dies. This guide tells you how to use it.

[Easy read: mandatory reconsideration](#) – These easy read guides explain what a mandatory reconsideration is and when you can ask for one.

[Easy read: Maternity Allowance](#) – This easy read guide explains what Maternity Allowance is and how you can apply for it.

[Easy read: Carer's Allowance](#) – These easy read guides explain what Carer's Allowance is and how you can apply for it.

[Easy read: Attendance Allowance](#) – This easy read guide explains what Attendance Allowance is and how you can apply for it.