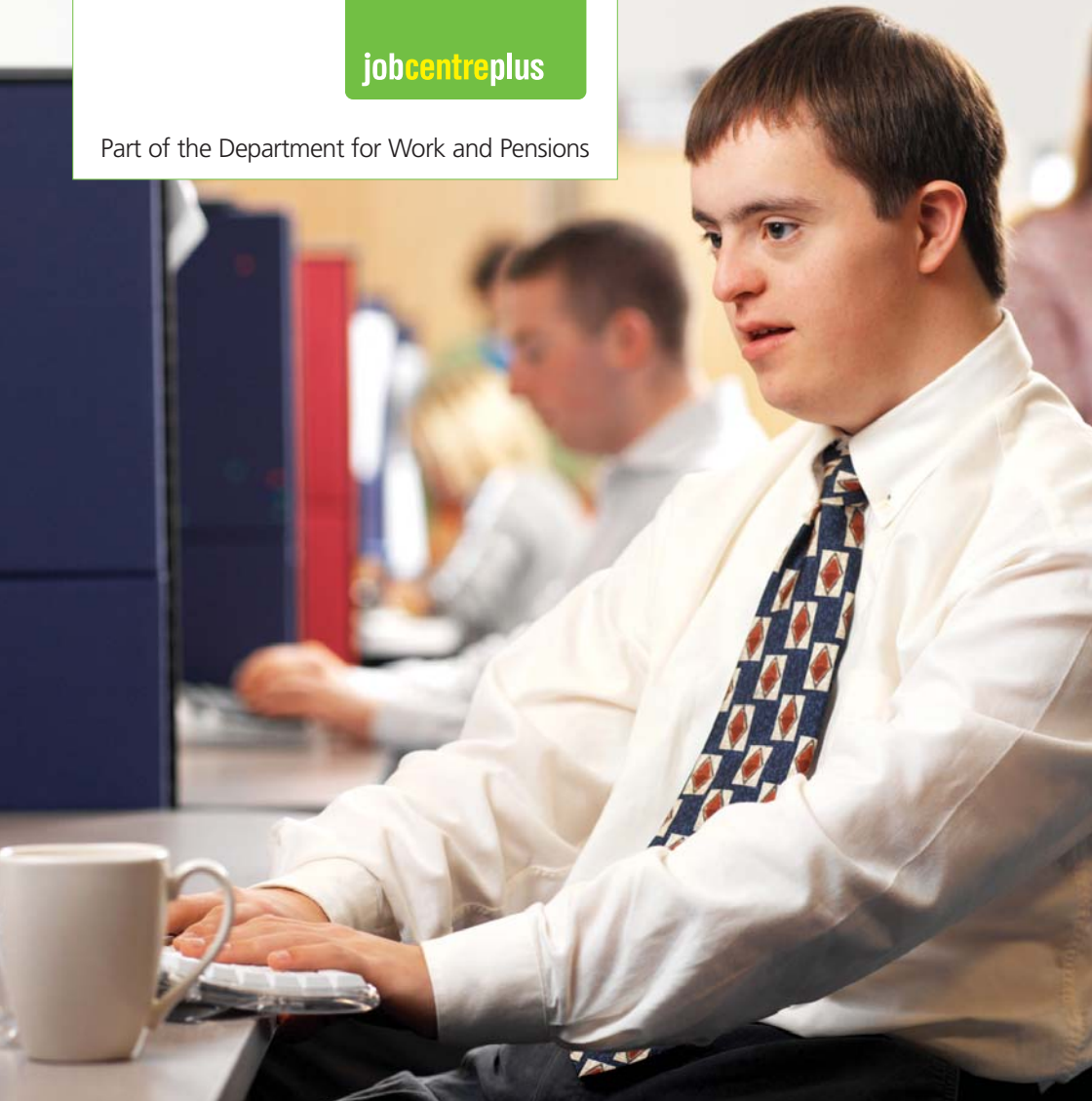


WorkPath

Help finding work if
you have a disability
or health condition

jobcentreplus

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions



This leaflet is about ways we can help you if you have a disability or health condition, and you are in work or looking for work.

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Helping you into work

You have lots of options when you're ready to get into work or change your working pattern. If you haven't worked for a while, you might want to spend some time getting used to being back in a workplace. Or you might want to find training to help you get the right job. Getting back to work, changing jobs or starting work for the first time are good ways of meeting new people, making new friends, updating your skills and increasing your income.

One of the things you can do first is to get some advice from Jobcentre Plus. You can talk to a personal adviser. They can discuss your situation and goals with you, and help you work out what's right for you and your family.

What are WorkPath programmes?

If you are disabled or have a health condition, a WorkPath programme could help you find a job or stay in work. We have designed each programme to help you get over the barriers you may face in the world of work. They offer practical support if you or the person you work for needs help, so that you can get the most from yourself and from your work.

There are 3 WorkPath programmes. These are:

- Access to Work
- Work Preparation, and
- WORKSTEP

Access to Work

Access to Work can help you if your health or disability affects the way you do your job. It gives you and the person you work for advice and support with extra costs which may arise because of your needs.

Access to Work might pay towards the equipment you need at work, adapting premises to meet your needs, or a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if you can't use trains or buses, and for a communicator at job interviews, if you need one.

Can I take part in Access to Work?

You may be able to take part in Access to Work if you are:

- in a paid job
- unemployed and about to start a job, or
- self-employed,

and your disability or health condition stops you from being able to do parts of your job.

Your disability or health condition may not have a big effect on what you do each day, but may have a long-term effect on how well you can do your job. If you think that this applies to you, you should talk to an adviser.

Work Preparation

Work Preparation is tailored to suit your needs, but it usually involves doing short unpaid work experience with a local employer.

Work Preparation can help you get ready to work. We will work out what you need from the programme, and we can offer you a range of support to help you find and stay in work.

There is no set way that Work Preparation works. Depending on your needs, it can last from a few hours to a number of weeks.

On average, most people who take part in Work Preparation are involved for between 6 and 13 weeks.

Can I take part in Work Preparation?

You may be able to take part in Work Preparation if you have a disability or health condition, and you are in touch with a personal adviser.

You can be in work, out of work, claiming benefit or not claiming benefit. If you do take part in Work Preparation, it is very important that you tell us straight away if anything changes (for example, if you start receiving a benefit, stop receiving a benefit, or move house).

If you're not sure, you should ask an adviser at Jobcentre Plus.

WORKSTEP

WORKSTEP can help if you feel that you need a lot of support before doing a job on your own. It is all about meeting your needs so that you can get and keep a job. You may know about WORKSTEP under its old name of 'supported employment'.

WORKSTEP offers a range of support that aims to:

- develop and improve your skills
- help you work with other people
- help you get used to working, and
- make you more confident about having a job.

Many people who take part in WORKSTEP find out that they can continue in their jobs (or even move into another) without the need for WORKSTEP support. But many need long-term support.

WORKSTEP also helps businesses to support you and give you the chance to develop once you are in a job.

Can I take part in WORKSTEP?

If you are disabled and you want to find a job, you may be able to get help from WORKSTEP. You should contact Jobcentre Plus. They will put you in touch with an adviser who is an expert on work for disabled people. They will help you decide if WORKSTEP is right for you.

What kind of job can WORKSTEP help me with?

WORKSTEP can help you with almost any kind of job, from work in a small shop to work for a huge company. It gives you and the person you work for support. Under WORKSTEP you will be paid the same wage as others who do the same job as you.

WORKSTEP is provided by a range of different employers, including some local authorities and voluntary organisations, who have agreed to work with Jobcentre Plus.

Find out more

You can contact Jobcentre Plus by visiting www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or you can find our address and numbers in your local phone book.

Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of January 2008.

It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Jobcentre Plus is committed to applying the principles of equal opportunities in its programmes and services.

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