



Brought to you by the Department for Work & Pensions

17 May 2024

Roundup of recent DWP announcements

New plan to help people stay in work

A new work and health support service will be rolled out across 15 areas of England as part of the Government's plan to help people with health conditions back to work.

The WorkWell pilots will connect 59,000 people from October to local support services including physiotherapy and counselling so they can get the tailored help they need to stay in or return to work.

The WorkWell service provides a single, joined-up assessment and gateway into both employment support and health services locally to help people manage their conditions and to identify workplace adjustments or support that would enable them to stay in work or return sooner.

Participants do not need to be claiming any Government benefits and will receive personalised support from a Work and Health Coach to understand their current health and social barriers to work and draw up a plan to help them overcome them. Evidence shows that work is an effective way to improve wellbeing – reducing the risk of depression, improving physical health, and building self-confidence and financial independence.

[Read the full press release](#) which contains details of the pilot areas.

Access to Work applications go digital

Government grants to help make work life easier for disabled people can now be applied for online, as the Access to Work scheme goes digital.

The DWP funding is now available through the [GOV.UK](#) website and helped 50,000 make workplace adjustments last year.

To be eligible for the Access to Work scheme, individuals must be employed, self-employed, about to start work, participating in a supported internship/traineeship, taking part in work experience/work trial or require communication support at interview.

Customers are still able to make claims for Access to Work via phone and post.

[Read the press release](#)

Child Maintenance consultation

Through a new consultation paper, DWP aims to improve the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) so more children get the financial support they are due. This includes ending the option of direct payments between parents through the CMS, meaning if parents do not pay it will be detected and enforcement action can be taken sooner.

It also asks what further support the CMS can provide to help separated parents make family-based arrangements, which are agreed by parents, without state intervention, and how the CMS can better support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

The consultation is available on [GOV.UK](#) and is open until 31 July 2024.

[Read the press release](#)

Move to Universal Credit update

Last month, the Prime Minister made a speech that included the announcement to accelerate the movement of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and ESA with Housing Benefit customers to Universal Credit (UC). Many customers will be better off on UC compared to legacy benefits and we estimate around half of our ESA and ESA with Housing Benefit customers would receive over £100 a month more on UC. Customers will also be able to benefit from improved work incentives and enhanced labour market support for those who want it.

Our delivery approach and timelines will be informed by detailed planning and engagement with stakeholders, but our current planning assumption is that we would begin notifying this group in September 2024, with the aim of notifying everyone to make the move by December 2025.

To aid stakeholders in supporting conversations about moving to UC, a Third-Party Guide of useful information has been produced and distributed to stakeholders to enable them to support those households required to make a move to UC.

If you would like a copy, please contact your local [Jobcentre Plus](#) Partnership Manager.

Jobcentre Plus bank holiday arrangements

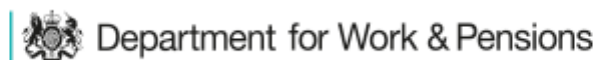
Jobcentre Plus opening times are different for Monday 27 May bank holiday:

- On **Monday 27 May** offices and phone lines are **closed**.

To make sure people get their payment on a day when Jobcentre Plus offices are open, some payments will be paid early:

- If the expected payment date is **Monday 27 May** benefits will be paid early on **Friday 24 May**.

If the expected [payment date](#) is not shown, customers will get their money on their usual payment date.



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