



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Partnership News East London

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Testimonials

The DWP place huge value on strong relationships and have seen the benefit they bring to our service. Your feedback is crucial to us.



'Harry McElwee delivered an excellent training session. It went smoothly and was very easy to understand. Thank you.'

Team Leader - Island Advice Network



'The session was helpful. We would like more sessions as it is important to be kept updated and informed. The links and slides are good, as I can refer to when needed. Harry spoke clearly and well. He delivered the session well. Thank you.'

Manager - Pollards Hill Residents' Association



'It's always a genuine pleasure to have Harry on board. He's not only a fantastic presenter — clear, engaging, and incredibly knowledgeable — but also a true expert when it comes to the benefits system. His sessions are consistently well-delivered, full of insight, and extremely valuable to all who attend, whether they are new to the field or seasoned professionals.'

Manager - Citizens Advice



'Harry McElwee delivered an excellent training session. It went smoothly, and very easy to understand.'

Team Leader – PHRA



'I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the impactful and informative training session on Pension Credit and State Pension Awareness you delivered to our champions today. Your expertise and clear delivery have equipped the champions with valuable knowledge that will help them better support our residents.'

Manager - Newham Council



'Thank you for all the information sessions you've delivered recently, they have been really helpful and informative. I support the nine local London boroughs in my role, and recently, several of them have expressed concerns about the long wait times for Access to Work applications.'

Manager - Redbridge Council

Businesses missing out on specialist JCP recruitment support worth thousands

UK businesses are being offered no-fee specialist recruitment support to fill vacancies as the full rollout of a national campaign launches (Monday 3 November) today targeted at key sectors.

All businesses – whether they have one or one hundred roles on offer – can use Jobcentre Plus’ no-fee professional recruitment service to find the right candidate.

Independent investigation to be launched to tackle rising youth inactivity

Led by former Health Secretary Alan Milburn, the probe will examine why increasing numbers of young people are falling out of work or education before their careers have begun—with a particular focus on the impact of mental health conditions and disability.

It comes as nearly one million young people—approximately one in eight young people aged 16 to 24—are currently not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

Over a quarter of NEET young people now cite long-term sickness or disability as a barrier to participation, compared to just 12% in 2013/14. Further to this, the number of young people claiming UC health and Employment Support Allowance has increased by more than 50% in the last five years, with 80% of young people on the UC Health element currently citing mental health reasons or a neurodevelopmental condition among declared health conditions.

LA Welfare Direct bulletins: 2025

These LA Welfare Direct bulletins provide information that affects Housing Benefit and other areas of DWP, to local authority staff.

Budget 2025 document

This is the full Budget 2025 document in print, web and HTML accessible versions.



Budget 2025 fact sheet: Cutting the Cost of Living

This Budget takes the fair choices needed to deliver on the country’s key priorities and takes decisive action to cut the cost of living, bring down inflation and deliver economic stability

Benefit Updates

Fresh drive to boost Pension Credit take-up as new figures reveal large regional gaps in those receiving benefit worth around £4,300 a year

Analysis published on 30th October – the first of its kind – found that between 60% and 70% of potentially eligible pensioners in the North and London are claiming Pension Credit, while in the East and South this drops to around the mid-50% mark. Take up rates are highest in the North East at 71% compared to just 55% in the South West.

Published by the Department for Work and Pensions, this marks the first time that analysis has been undertaken on the demographics of eligible pensioners not applying for Pension Credit, including at a local level.

The new trial– in partnership with Age UK and Independent Age – consists of a letter sent to 2,000 pensioners across England urging them to claim Pension Credit, worth on average of around £4,300 a year. These pensioners have been identified through the analysis as being the most likely to be eligible for Pension Credit but not currently claiming the benefit.

Millions of pensioners to receive Winter Fuel Payments from today

Pensioners across England and Wales will receive between £100 and £300, with payments being made automatically throughout November and December. The amount pensioners are paid will be dependent on whether they live as a couple, if they are entitled to other benefits and whether or not they live in a care home.

It comes as the Department warns of a 150 percent surge in Winter Fuel Payment scam activity. These scams see fraudsters pose as Government officials or payment providers in an attempt to trick people into sharing their personal information.



220,000 vulnerable customers given personalised support to move to Universal Credit

Almost a quarter of a million people on Employment Support Allowance (ESA) have successfully made the move to Universal Credit thanks to tailored support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions, shows new research published earlier this week.

Since July 2024, ESA customers have been moving at scale to the modern Universal Credit system, which offers more flexible support tailored to individual circumstances – whether people are seeking work or managing health conditions.

Universal Credit if you have children

If you're responsible for a child, you may be entitled to an extra amount of Universal Credit and support with childcare costs.



WCA50 form: Capability for work questionnaire

Only fill in this capability for work questionnaire if you're asked to do so, this is not a claim form.

Government to accept key recommendations of Sayce review on Carer's Allowance

Unpaid carers will have their Carer's Allowance earnings related overpayments reviewed and potentially cancelled or repaid, following an independent review that found unclear guidance left people facing unexpected debts.

The independent Sayce Review, launched in October last year, found unclear guidance on averaging fluctuating earnings prevented carers from understanding what changes to their pay needed reporting to the Department for Work and Pensions.

People across UK to benefit from easier access to local services as councils get digital boost

People across the UK will benefit from simple, streamlined local services – whether they're applying for a driving licence, securing a school place, reporting a pothole or managing their council tax - thanks to a dedicated team that brings together the tech expertise of central and local government.

Launching on 22nd November 2025, the new GDS Local unit within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) will work to make everyday tasks faster and easier for residents.

Child Benefit action to save £350 million from claimants abroad

Child Benefit will be stripped from tens of thousands of people who have moved abroad in a major clampdown expected to save £350 million over the next five years.

A new specialist team will use international travel data to track if claimants have gone overseas, so are no longer entitled to the payments.

The move follows a successful pilot which has already removed 2,600 people from the system who had left the UK but continued to claim Child Benefit.

A team of just 15 investigators successfully prevented around £17 million being incorrectly paid out in under 12 months.

Employers join forces with government to tackle ill-health and keep Britain working

More than 60 major and many small employers are joining forces with the government to tackle the rising tide of ill-health that is pushing people out of work and holding back growth.

The joint effort, developed in response to Sir Charlie Mayfield's Keep Britain Working Review, will drive action to prevent ill-health, support people to stay in work, and help employers build healthier, more resilient workplaces.

Major banks give helping hand to people experiencing homelessness as new Financial Inclusion Strategy launches

Thousands of people at risk of experiencing homelessness will be able to open bank accounts for the first time through a new pilot between Shelter and five major banks, which will allow Shelter to support people without a fixed address removing a major barrier which stops people being able to get paid work.

Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays, Nationwide and Santander are expanding on Shelter's partnership with HSBC, which has already helped over 7,000 people get back on their feet. For people without a fixed address, opening a bank account can feel impossible – yet without one, finding a job or a home is even harder. This new partnership removes those barriers and gives people a fair chance to rebuild their lives.

Veterans support centres to be rolled out across the country

Over 1.8 million veterans across the UK will benefit from a new network of local support centres, as the MOD launches a transformational Veterans Strategy to renew the nation's contract with those who serve and have served.



The new centres will help improve access to support services such as health, housing and employment, and may extend to finance, wellbeing, welfare and integration into society.

The local centres will fundamentally transform how assistance is provided, offering the first coordinated national network of support centres.

They will connect to a new VALOUR headquarters within the Ministry of Defence, with regional centres and field officers working in communities.

New campaign to 'demystify' creative jobs for young people

A new report suggests a lack of information, understanding and support is preventing young people from working in creative sectors including film and TV, music, visual arts, advertising and video games.

Crime-cutting jobs plan sees hundreds of firms join hiring drive

Over 300 top British businesses have signed up to the Government's recruitment initiative in the last 12 months, joining household names like Greggs, Iceland and Kier in helping fill some of the estimated one million vacancies in the UK job market.

The Prison Service has also unveiled bold new plans to deploy a digital job-matching tool that will connect prisoners with employment opportunities and support them through the application process, as part of a wider tech drive to link potential employers with untapped talent behind bars.

In the last 12 months, the proportion of prison leavers serving sentences of 12 months or more who were employed within six months of release has more than doubled, rising to an all-time high of 38 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in 2021.

Skills England unveils 'roadmap' for local skills to drive growth

New guidance published today will empower local leaders, employers, colleges, independent training providers, and universities to transform skills training across England – driving national economic renewal from the ground up.

Local areas know best how to tackle local skills needs. LSIPs are vital for making this a reality and Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs), working with Strategic Authorities where they are in place, will lead on development.

These local plans provide in-depth insight on skill needs across a given area - from supporting people to enter work and progress in employment, through to post graduate level 8 - and the actions required to meet them. The work will involve many key local stakeholders including Job Centre Plus.

More free breakfast clubs to tackle cost of living head-on

Half a million more children will benefit from Best Start free breakfast clubs from April, delivering real relief to families struggling with the rising cost of living whilst investing in the foundations of future economic growth.

Applications open today for the next wave of 500 schools with 40% of pupils on free school meals to benefit from the programme, as the government invests £80 million in the right places to give every child the best start in life - recognising that a healthy, well-educated population is essential for a thriving economy.

Chancellor freezes charges to keep prescriptions under a tenner

The Chancellor has announced that NHS prescription charges will remain frozen next year, which will help millions of hard-working people with the cost of living and ensure patients have access to the care they need.



First rail freeze in 30 years to ease the cost of living

Millions of commuters across the country will benefit from a freeze on rail fares for the first time in 30 years, the Chancellor and Transport Secretary have announced today, helping with the cost of living and supporting economic growth.

The Chancellor is set to freeze fares at the Budget, with passengers not paying a penny more on season tickets, peak returns for commuters and off-peak returns between major cities.

The move will save commuters hundreds of pounds off their season tickets, freeze costs for travellers, and support growth in town centres across the country. Commuters on the more expensive routes will save more than £300 per year.



Get Britain Working: Labour Market Insights October 2025

Labour market official statistics in development covering Universal Credit customer employment and journeys, into-work rates and analysis of local labour markets.

The employment of disabled people 2025

These statistics give a detailed analysis and breakdowns of the number of disabled people in employment.



Keep Britain Working Review: Final report

Keep Britain Working is an independent review of the role of employers in tackling health based economic inactivity and promoting healthy and inclusive workplaces.

Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 9 October 2025

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

Move to Universal Credit, July 2022 to end September 2025

These official statistics under development cover the number of people who have been sent managed migration notices inviting them to claim Universal Credit.

Benefit Sanctions statistics to August 2025

Statistics about sanctions on Universal Credit (UC). The data will be available as normal for analysis via Stat-Xplore.

Employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme

This document lists the employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme, and their status (committed, employer or leader)

Analysis of Carer's Allowance claimants receiving other benefits, undertaking paid work, receiving overpayments and civil penalties

This publication provides data and analysis in relation to Carer's Allowance, some of which is referenced by the Independent Review.

Work and Health Programme statistics to August 2025

This is the latest quarterly release of statistics on the Work and Health Programme (WHP) and includes data up to August 2025.

Pension Credit applications and awards: November 2025

This publication provides updated Pension Credit application, award and outstanding caseload statistics since 1 April 2023.

Review of Carer's Allowance Overpayments

The government is publishing the Independent Review into earnings-related overpayments of Carer's Allowance, led by Liz Sayce OBE, and its own response to the report's recommendation.



Links and Resources

Touchbase is being produced weekly and is being circulated to subscribers every Friday. Although these provide a roundup of announcements and are useful for organisations, they will not be published on GOV.UK.

[Subscribe to Touchbase](#)



1. Touchbase: News and articles from across government for advisers, employers and organisations that help people find jobs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/touchbase-dwp-news-about-work-working-age-benefits-and-services>

2. The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) toolkit: This toolkit provides information to individuals and organisations that support PIP and DLA claimants.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners/the-personal-independence-payment-pip-toolkit>

3. The Health Assessment Advisory Service – This service arranges and carries out assessments on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). If you are claiming benefits as a result of a disability or injury, you may be required by DWP to have an assessment with a qualified Healthcare Professional as part of your claim process.

<https://www.chdauk.co.uk/assessment-process>

4. Universal Credit Toolkit: This toolkit contains information about Universal Credit and the changes it brings.

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit-toolkit-for-partner-organisations>

5. Pension Credit Toolkit. Use this collection of materials to help older people get Pension Credit.

[Pension Credit toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

6. HM Revenue and Customs Employer Bulletin: A bi-monthly magazine for employers and agents giving up-to-date information on payroll topics.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hm-revenue-and-customs-employer-bulletin>

7. UK Online: All 3,000 UK online Centre's partners offer FREE or low-cost access to computers and the internet, plus help and support to use them.

<https://www.gov.uk/ukonline-centre-internet-access-computer-training>

8. Supporting people back to work: Useful links to support people back to work.

[@JCPinEastLondon](#) X account.

[Job Help website](#) an external Government website with a range of information on finding a job, applying for opportunities, and developing skills.

[Find a Job website](#) an external website for job seekers with nearly 65,500 vacancies.

[Find a Job website](#) an external website for employers to post their opportunities.

[@JCPJobsPlusMore](#) National Employer and Partnership Teams National X account.

[Civil Service Jobs](#) Search for jobs in the Civil Service.

I trust that existing partnership arrangements are meeting your needs. However, if you have any questions or would like to discuss local partnership issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am available to deliver DWP benefit awareness sessions to all external partners and your colleagues using MS Teams. If you would like to discuss arranging a session, please do get in touch.

Harry McElwee: East London District.

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