

DWP Update – Jan 2021

Argyll and Bute

Stats/MI (Recorded as of 12th Nov 2020)

Office	Total UC Claimants	Conditionality groups					
		Preparing for work	Planning for work	Working – No requirements	No work Requirements	Working – With requirements	Searching for Work
Oban	2059	49	32	537	302	352	791
Campbeltown	956	25	13	204	189	163	362
Dunoon	1126	33	15	197	237	198	440
Rothesay	658	32	16	90	149	98	276
Helensburgh	1327	45	14	270	261	208	532

Flexible Support Fund – through DWP Dynamic Purchasing System

We have continued to procure support through the pandemic for our Health customers, 18-24, 25+ customer groups to support them into work or nearer the labour market.

Job Finding Support – Started 11th January 2021

Job Finding Support (JFS) is designed to help those who have recently become unemployed (up to 13 weeks), who may not need extensive support but would benefit from personalised support and advice to help them re-enter employment quickly and to improve the likelihood of securing sustainable paid employment

Job Finding Support will help claimants to develop their job finding and job application skills, increasing their ability to quickly secure replacement employment

Participants will be offered a minimum of 4 hours tailored '121' digital support, plus at least one online group session. In most cases this will be completed within 10 working days and in all cases will be completed within 20 working days

The service offered will include but not be limited to:

- A mock interview
- A digital online group session

- Help to identify their transferable skills
- Sector specific job advice (particularly the growth sectors)
- Job matching to suitable vacancies and advice/links about suitable employers

Job Entry Targeted Support – Starting 25th January

The primary objectives of Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) are to make support available to people who have been out of work and in receipt of benefit for at least 13 weeks, to help them gain paid employment, maximise the opportunities to support people to find work. Support each participant to develop realistic job goals and career paths; identify suitable and achievable steps to realise these goals. Ensure each participant receives tailored quality support to overcome barriers to securing employment in the prevailing local labour market sector conditions, including sign posting to other support available. Ensure providers work closely with employers, local partners and services to respond to key events or labour market changes with positive and innovative solutions

Kickstart

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](#) (or the [National Living Wage](#) depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated [employer National Insurance contributions](#)
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

Employers can spread the start date of the job placements up until the end of December 2021.

A Kickstart Scheme application must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If a single employer cannot provide this many job placements, they can find a Kickstart gateway, such as a local authority, charity or trade body for help applying.

Further funding is available for training and support so that young people on the scheme can get a job in the future.

Work coaches match customers to the live vacancies.

Restart Programme

Not a lot of information on this so far – due to start in Summer 2021

Once we have more info I will provide this to the group.

Help to find work for 18-24 year olds

There is a dedicated team of work coaches who work with customers aged 18-24 to help them to find a job, work-related training or an apprenticeship through the Youth Offer. This has been published on gov.uk and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-to-find-work-for-universal-credit-claimants-aged-18-to-24>

As part of the wider youth offer, we have introduced the role of Youth Employability Coach as part of the Government's plans for economic recovery. The Youth Employability Coach will provide a holistic service for young customers with complex needs and require more intensive one-to-one support. We want to give dedicated support to those young people with the greatest needs and particularly want to avoid long term damage to young people's prospects.

Virtual Youth Hub

DWP have been hosting a Virtual Youth Hub for our customers since July 2019 which expanded to include partners in October 2019. The aim of a Youth Hub is to provide opportunities to train and develop skills, delivering individual wraparound support to ensure young people see a value in the world of work. The longer-term aim is that this will be hosted by a partner organisation and be supported by DWP staff.

Our Job Centres

All offices remain open to vulnerable customers and are compliant with social distancing Covid guidance, with staff working from home and in offices. Work coaches continue to engage with customers on a digital or telephone basis, or a blend of both, and our telephone lines remain open until 6.30pm.

Staff working in Oban Job Centre are participating in **Video Appointment Service** which offers video appointments to customers. From late autumn through a discussion with customers, the work coach check they have 'unlimited' home internet or 'unlimited' mobile data to ensure there is no cost to the customer, they have a suitable device as well as access to the appropriate web browsers. This is voluntary and participants can withdraw at any time. This has been well received by customers and work coaches alike and is helping to build rapport and trust as well as provide more visible support to their customers.