

Glasgow District Partners Newsletter

Special Edition Find your way back to work

www.jobcentreplus.co.uk



Welcome to this Special Edition Partnership Newsletter which contains new information about a range of initiatives that Jobcentre Plus is introducing from April 09.

These new services have been developed in response to the economic situation and provide a wide range of new flexibilities and support.

We want to help all our customers back to work and these new measures have been tailored to meet the individual needs of our customers.

There is extra help for newly unemployed customers and people facing redundancy. This includes additional support for job searching, CV writing, interview preparation and access to more Local Employment Partnership vacancies. We have also put in place a range of measures to provide additional support for professional and executive customers.

We have introduced new services for people who have been unemployed for 6 months or more which includes an employer recruitment subsidy and financial assistance for people who become self employed.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter and pass the information on to your customers. If you need any more information about any of these articles –please contact the Jobcentre Plus Partnership Manager –Alison Campbell on 0141 207 3816.

Regards



Glasgow District Manager

In this issue:

Introduction - David Collie

Extra help for new customers

Longer term Customers

Frequently Asked Questions

Work Focussed Volunteering

People facing redundancy

More Information



Part of the Department
for Work and Pensions

Find your Way Back to Work –Extra Help for Newly Unemployed Customers

All customers will continue to meet with their Personal Advisor who will support and advise them on job search techniques and how to get back to work.

We are also introducing new help which will be especially relevant to people who have not had any recent jobsearch experience -perhaps because they have been in the same job for a number of years.

Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers will now be able to offer a range of additional services to meet the individual needs of their customers.

These include

- One hour information sessions where Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers provide jobsearch information and advice to small groups of customers. Attendance at these sessions is voluntary and can be followed up by a one-to-one coaching session. They will usually take place at a local Jobcentre
- Specialist support for newly unemployed professional and executive customers .This will cover additional recruitment routes and self help channels. We will continue to work in partnership with Skills Development Scotland (formally Careers Scotland) and this integrated service will be available at every Jobcentre in Glasgow.
- A one day advice and coaching service .This will be delivered by our external partners Microcom who will provide additional jobsearch support and a C.V updating service
- Newly unemployed customers can now also access our Programme Centres which provide a longer specialist intervention for things like a C.V preparation, interview skills, confidence building and jobsearch resources.

In addition to this, new customers will now have access to Work Trials and Local Employment Partnership (LEP) vacancies. The Advisor Discretionary Fund (ADF) is also now available to the newly unemployed.

After 6 Months

The majority of people return to work within 6 months of becoming unemployed and we have introduced additional help for customers who remain on the register.

These options in this package are all voluntary and include

- A new approach to volunteering
- Employer Recruitment Subsidy of £1,000
- Self Employment Package which includes a new Self Employment Credit of £50 a week payable for 16 weeks. This allowance will be disregarded for tax, housing and In Work Benefits.
- Increased funding for work focussed training including In Work Training via Employed Status Training for Work and work focussed pre-employment training

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What jobs are eligible for the £1,000 Employer Subsidy?

To qualify for a subsidy the job needs to be for a minimum of 16 hours a week and be expected to last for at least 6 months. The method of payment to employers will depend on the scale of recruitment and Jobcentre Plus account management arrangements.

Q Is there any extra help for disabled people?

An extra £8 million is being provided for the Access to Work programme during 2009-2010. Access to Work can be used to provide the extra support (equipment, travel and adaptations) that some disabled people need before they can start or remain in work.

Q Are any of these new Options mandatory?

No, as before JSA customers are required to actively seek work but all of these new initiatives are entirely voluntary. These changes give Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers more flexibilities and options when responding to the needs of their customers.

Q Who will deliver the Self Employed package and will customers still have the option of test trading?

In Scotland, this service will be delivered by Business Gateway –supported by Training for Work including the existing test trading option. Customers will have access to the £50 weekly Self Employed Credit which will be paid at the end of the test trading period when their claim has ended.

Q What is work focussed pre-employment training?

In Scotland the delivery vehicle for work focussed pre-employment training will be Training for Work. There will also be funding flexibilities to meet any unmet demand identified via our pre-redundancy and Local Employment Partnership activity.

Q What sort of help can the Advisor Discretionary Fund provide?

The Advisor Discretionary Fund (ADF) is intended to provide flexible funding which can remove barriers to employment. This could for example cover the cost of clothing, transport or formal childcare to enable a customer to attend a job interview.

Q What is a Local Employment partnership opportunity?

Local employment partnerships are where employers agree to give unemployed candidates a fair chance at filling their vacancies. This is achieved through a range of measures which might include work trials and guaranteed interviews.

Q How do professional and executive customers access the new specialist jobsearch support?

To meet the varied needs of this customer group, Jobcentre Plus has put a number of contracts in place on a nationwide sectoral basis. In the first instance jobseekers should contact their Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser who will signpost them to appropriate support.

More News

Work focussed volunteering

We know that volunteering has an extremely useful role to play in helping people return to work and payment for any associated expenses will not affect benefits.

Volunteering can help people keep their skills up to date and gain new experience. Our Third Sector partner Volunteer Development Scotland will broker work-focussed volunteering opportunities for those JSA customers who are interested in volunteering. Customers can choose how many hours they wish to volunteer for –some people may choose to spend a few days a week volunteering whereas others may prefer to do just a couple of hours.

This will support the employability agenda –as we recognise that volunteering is a positive activity in terms of confidence building and provide recent work related experience. Volunteer Development Scotland will work in partnership with local Third Sector Organisations to deliver this brokering service

Help for people facing redundancy

We have increased our funding for the Rapid Response Service so that we can help more people when they are under notice or have been made redundant.

This strengthened approach allows Jobcentre Plus to offer assistance (with benefits and jobsearch) to a wider group of customers –this includes people under threat of redundancy, small local businesses, contracted or freelance workers and self –employed people. Where existing Jobcentre Plus provision or that from partner organisations cannot meet the needs of the individual affected by redundancy (for example lack of suitable provision or not available in the required timescales) Jobcentre Plus can approve the use of RRS funded support.

For more information on support for employers/employees in Glasgow – contact the Employer Engagement manager Linda Laird on 0141 207 3838.

Interested in finding out more

Please contact the Jobcentre Plus Partnership Manager Alison Campbell on 0141 207 3816 if you have any questions about any of the articles in this Newsletter.

If you wish to attend a Partners Information Event to find out more about these changes – please also contact Alison

Need more information

To make a claim for benefit –call 0800 055 6688

Lines are open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Customers will need their National Insurance number and details of their rent or mortgage and any service charges they pay. We will also need information of their past or present employer and their income and savings.

Visit www.direct.gov.uk to search for a job online or phone Jobseekers Direct on 0845 606 0234.