

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

DATE: January 2024

All grown up - Child Benefit goes digital(link is external)

Child Benefit claims can be made online for the first time.

Universal Credit - Migration Notice Letter

Universal Credit if you receive a Migration Notice letter(link is external) - You need to move to Universal Credit if you've received a Migration Notice, as one or more of your benefits will be ending soon.

Transitional protection if you receive a Migration Notice letter(link is external) - Financial help and support when you first move to Universal Credit from your current benefits or tax credits.

Employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme(link is external)

The document in the hyperlink lists the employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme and their status (committed, employer or leader), to the end of November 2023.

Disability Confident service providers(link is external)

This document gives the contact details of service providers who may be able to help businesses become Disability Confident employers.

New Self-employment and Universal Credit YouTube video - Reporting your business income and expenses(link is external)

To further assist self-employed claimants in what is required when reporting income and expenses, there is a new income and expenses YouTube video. A British Sign Language (BSL) and a Welsh language version are in production behind the scenes and will support this once ready.

Applications now open for 15 hours of free childcare for eligible two year olds starting from April 2024.(link is external)

We are expanding free government-funded childcare so that thousands more parents will not have to choose between a career and a family. [We're now expanding the scheme\(link is external\)](#) so that eligible working parents are also entitled to 30 hours of [free childcare\(link is external\)](#) for children from age 9 months. This will be rolled out in stages, starting in April 2024.

From September 2024, 15 hours of free childcare will be extended to all children from the age of nine months.

Claiming Universal Credit and other benefits if you are a refugee(link is external)

Urgent actions refugees need to do to claim Universal Credit and other benefits, once they have been granted leave to remain in the UK.

When you get your Biometric Residency Permit (BRP) your asylum support from the Home Office (money and accommodation) will stop after 28 days. This information explains what you need to do now.

Sector-based work academy programme: learning provider guidance(link is external)

How learning providers can help Jobcentre Plus and employers fill job vacancies more efficiently through Sector-based work academy programmes.



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Disability Services Advocacy Team

Reminder

The Disability Services Advocacy Team support raising awareness of the different Disability Services benefits and grants available. These are Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB).

The following document details upcoming awareness and upskilling sessions for external stakeholders and organisations on Disability Services products and grants in March 2024, including PIP, DLA Child and IIDB which can be shared for external stakeholders/partners to attend:

Monthly Sessions - Mar 2024 External

Universal Credit and you(link is external)

This document gives an introduction to Universal Credit for people who are claiming it. An update has been made, adding care leavers to the list of circumstances where a claimant's work-related requirements can be temporarily reduced or removed.

Pensioners receive £4.8 billion in government support to heat their homes over winter(link is external)

11.9 million Winter Fuel Payments and Pensioner Cost of Living Payments – worth over £4.8 billion – have been made to pensioners across the UK over the past month.

Interactive tool to tackle domestic economic abuse launched(link is external)

New interactive tool launched on 20 December 2023 to help businesses and charities spot and tackle domestic economic abuse.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises Energy Efficiency Scheme(link is external)

The Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE) Energy Efficiency Scheme (EES) is to help VCSE organisations deliver more efficient services for people and communities by saving money on energy bills. Up to £23.4m is available in total. Up to £3.4m will be available to deliver Independent Energy Assessments (IEAs) for VCSE organisations and up to £20m will be available for VCSE organisations to apply for a capital grant to implement energy efficiency measures identified in their IEA.

Landlord Portal Verification Automation Tool(link is external)

The [Understanding Universal Credit website\(link is external\)](#) has been updated to include information for landlords on the use of automation tools in the Landlord Portal. Following a trial of automation tools in Spring 2023, we have revised our policy relating to the use of automation tools – subject to certain limitations. The [Landlord Portal Verification Automation Tool\(link is external\)](#) provides more detail, including the background to the change, what is changing, next steps and a short question and answer section.

State Pension underpayments: progress on cases reviewed to 31 October 2023(link is external)

This ad hoc publication contains an update on the summary management information relating to the Department for Work and Pensions' LEAP exercise to correct underpayments of the State Pension.

Charities providing food, shelter and warmth given support(link is external)

Over 800 charities and community organisations struggling with increased demand have been awarded funding as part of a £76 million package.

HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards will officially launch in the New Year following a successful assessment from the Central Digital and Data Office(link is external)

The Ministry of Defence and Office for Veterans' Affairs are jointly delivering this commitment as part of ongoing improvements to veterans support.

Low-income households to receive over £2 billion in further cost of living support(link is external)

Around 8 million eligible households across the UK are set to receive a £299 Cost of Living Payment in February, as the Government unveiled its plans to reward work, reform welfare and grow the economy

DWP will make the third Cost of Living payment of £299 to eligible customers between Tuesday 6 February and Thursday 22 February 2024.

This is the third of three payments over the financial year, totalling up to £900.

Customers will receive the payments automatically. They do not need to contact DWP or do anything to receive the payment

The full list of benefit recipients that qualify for the upcoming Cost of Living payment are those who receive:

- Universal Credit;
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Income Support;
- Working Tax Credit;
- Child Tax Credit;
- Pension Credit

To be eligible for the payment, customers need to have been entitled to a payment for one of these benefits between 13 November and 12 December 2023 ('the qualifying period'), or a payment for an assessment period ending between these dates, or later found to be entitled to a payment.

If a household becomes retrospectively entitled to a Cost of Living payment or believe they are entitled but do not receive one, they can report this on GOV.UK from the 23 February 2024.

Customers can also find out about the wide range of government support with the cost of living by visiting the [Help for Households website\(link is external\)](#).

We would be grateful if you could share this announcement within your organisation and update your channels wherever you may talk about this cost-of-living payment to reflect the payment

£80m to regenerate brownfield land and build thousands of homes(link is external)

Third round of £180m Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 is now open to councils to deliver thousands of new homes and jobs.

New measures to better protect vulnerable customers agreed with Telecoms firms(link is external)

UK phone providers have agreed a number of new measures to protect vulnerable customers as phone lines are upgraded to a new digital network.

Councils pilot net zero projects with £19 million government backing(link is external)

Local Net Zero Accelerator pilots will help combined authorities deliver green initiatives such as retrofitting homes and installing solar panels.

Information is up to date at the time of publication. For further information on any of the above please contact your local Partnership Manager who will be happy to help or alternatively, please email the [ASG Partnership Support Inbox](#)