**DWP Support Factsheet for staff supporting NEET and Vulnerable people.**

**Universal Credit –** is a payment to help with your living costs. You may be able to get it if you’re on a low income, out of work or you cannot work. If you are working (including [apprenticeships](https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice)) [Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit) can ‘top-up’ your earnings using something called the [taper rate](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-your-earnings-affect-your-payments).

**Flexible Support Fund** – Jobcentre staff can access a barrier busting fund (subject to eligibility) that can be used to address needs such as technology, travel, tools, clothing, etc.

**Access to Work** - can help you get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability. The support you get will depend on your needs. Through [Access to Work](https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work), you can apply for a grant to help pay for practical support with your work; a support worker or job coach to help you in your workplace; taxi fares if you cannot use public transport; money to pay for communication support at job interviews.

You can also get support to manage your mental health at work.

**Traineeships** – are a skills development programme that includes a work placement. [Traineeships](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-trainees) help you get ready for an apprenticeship or job if you don’t have the right skills or experience. If you are claiming Universal Credit, you can participate in a traineeship on a full-time basis for up to 6 months without this affecting your eligibility for benefit.

Other support offers to consider to assist NEET and vulnerable young people into the labour market are:

**Health Adjustment Passport** – a [checklist](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1094407/health-adjustment-passport.pdf) that can be used to support you to identify what support and changes (known as reasonable adjustments) you may need when you are in work or moving into work. It can also help you to apply for support from Access to Work; and help you talk to employers about adjustments and in-work support that you may need.

**Personal Independence Payment (PIP) -** can help with extra living costs if you have both a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability; and difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around because of your condition.

You can get [PIP](https://www.gov.uk/pip) even if you’re working, have savings or are getting most other benefits.

**Motability** – supports people with disabilities to achieve greater independence, by giving you access to affordable, worry-free mobility. [Motability](https://www.motability.co.uk/) lease cars, wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV’s), scooters and powered wheelchairs in exchange for your mobility allowance.

**Attendance Allowance** – helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you if you've reached State Pension age. How much [Attendance Allowance](https://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance) you get depends on the level of care that you need because of your disability.

**Department for Work and Pensions Contracted Provision**

**Work & Health Programme (WHP)** – helps you find and keep a job if you’re out of work. You’ll get personal support to help you identify your employment needs; match your skills to work that’s available; put you in touch with employers; find long-term employment; get training to help you find work; manage health problems to reduce their impact on work. Available to those who are 18 or over, and who are not in any form of paid employment. [WHP](https://www.gov.uk/work-health-programme) can also support with other barriers such as; improving wellbeing, confidence building, increasing motivation. The programme can also support those wishing to become self-employed. This programme lasts for 65 weeks.

**Intensive Personalised Employment Support (IPES)** – this is a more intensive programme than the Work & Health Programme and provides one-to-one support and training to help you into work if you have a disability and have complex issues. Participants have a dedicated [IPES](https://www.gov.uk/intensive-personalised-employment-support) key worker who will work with them to deliver tailored flexible support, focused on overcoming barriers, identifying and achieving employment goals and providing consistent contact and intensive support

**Job Centres can secure their own provision to respond to localised gaps in service provision**

Examples of this in the Sheffield area are as follows: (but your own area will respond to their areas of need)

Experienced high numbers of people with Autism who needed employability skills training. Developing the provision it was tendered and contracted to a provider to deliver to referred candidates from DWP.

Likewise, identified a need for a programme to help people who have been impacted by their mental health and chronic pain to improve their independence and quality of life. To allow them to become more confident and motivated; helping them overcome their barriers to accessing employment.

**ESOL** – to improve knowledge of everyday English and the language needed for socialising. Helps to develop comprehension skills and build vocabulary.to help with the language skills needed to find a job and successfully function in the workplace.

**SWAP’s** – the Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) is to help people who are ready to start a job, and need support to learn the skills and behaviours that employers in particular industries look for. Placements are designed to help claimants build confidence to improve their job prospects and enhance their CV, whilst helping employers in sectors with current local vacancies to fill them. Placements last up to 6 weeks, are built around genuine vacancies and consist of 3 elements:

* pre-employment training (PET)
* work experience placement (WEP)
* guaranteed job interview (GJI)

**Benefits calculators** – you can use an independent, free and anonymous [benefits calculator](https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators) to check what you could be entitled to. This will give an estimate of:

* the benefits you could get
* how much your benefit payments could be
* how your benefits will be affected if you start work or increase your hours
* how your benefits will be affected if your circumstances change

**Youth Hubs** – working in partnership with local partner organisations to offer a range of services to young people in their community. Jobcentre Work coaches based in a Youth Hub will have a focus to address barriers to work, motivate and move people closer towards work. This may include working alongside and referring to appropriate provision based on needs.