

Disability Employment Programme Performance – 2010/11

November 2011

Contents

Background 3

Results 8

Background

Workprep and WORKSTEP

The Workprep and WORKSTEP programmes have now ceased to operate. The previous group of disability employment programmes, Workprep, WORKSTEP, and the Job Introduction Scheme have been replaced by a single programme, Work Choice, which was launched on 25th October 2010. Work Choice sits alongside the Work Programme, providing more intensive support for disabled people with more complex barriers to finding and staying in employment.

Work Preparation was a flexible, individually-tailored programme that could help prepare for the return to work.

Work Preparation could help to:

- identify the type of work most suitable for an individual
- gain work experience in a work environment
- learn new skills or update old ones
- build confidence

The programme did not last for a specific length of time. Most people who took part used it for between six and thirteen weeks. Programmes were normally available locally, either at the premises of a programme provider or a local workplace. Sometimes Work Preparation could be held at a residential centre.

At the end of a programme, the provider completed a final report and gave a copy to the participant and to their Disability Employment Adviser (DEA). They then had an appointment with their DEA so that they could discuss the report. The two agreed an action plan for the future, which may have included looking for work, training or further education.

Workprep figures covering the period upto 30th June 2010 were previously released on the DWP ad hoc analysis website at the link below. This publication adds to those figures by providing more up to date data, including age and gender breakdowns:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2010/workprep_oct10.pdf

The WORKSTEP employment programme provided support to disabled people facing complex barriers to getting and keeping a job. It also offered practical assistance to employers.

A person could benefit from WORKSTEP if they had a disability and wished to have a job where they could:

- develop and improve their job skills
- have the opportunity to develop and progress through training and support
- have the right kind of support and encouragement when they needed it

WORKSTEP gave the opportunity to work in a variety of different jobs through a wide range of organisations from small high street shops to national companies. Participants on the programme earned the same wage as non-disabled colleagues doing the same or similar work.

WORKSTEP figures covering the period upto 30th June 2010 were previously released on the DWP ad hoc analysis website at the link below. This publication adds to those figures by providing more up to date data, including age and gender breakdowns:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2010/workstep_oct10.pdf

Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led Pathways to Work

The Pathways to Work programme has now ceased to operate, having ended on 31st March 2011 in all Jobcentre Plus-Led (JCP) and Provider-Led Phase 1 districts and 27th April 2011 in Provider-Led Phase 2 districts. Benefit claimants who were previously eligible for the programme, may now be eligible to take part in the Work Programme or Jobcentre Plus Flexible Offer depending on their Work Capability Assessment prognosis.

Pathways to Work was an initiative aimed at improving opportunities for people on incapacity benefits. The process involved a series of mandatory Work Focused Interviews (WFIs) together with the Choices package, which was a range of provision aimed at improving labour market readiness and opportunities. Pathways to Work was primarily aimed at new incapacity benefits customers but was also available to existing customers on a voluntary basis.

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. The final Official statistics on Pathways to Work starts and job entries are available up to the end of the programme, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=ib_ref_p2w

Access to Work

The purpose of Access to Work is to:

- Help pay towards the equipment an individual needs at work; a communicator at job interviews, adapting premises to meet an individual's needs, or paying a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if an individual cannot use public transport.

An individual may be able to get Access to Work if they are:

- In a paid job
- Unemployed and about to start a job
- Unemployed and about to start a Work Trial
- Self-employed

and their disability or health condition stops them from being able to do parts of their job.

An individual's disability or health condition may not have a big effect on what they do each day, but may have a long-term effect on how well they can do their job.

The amount of help which an individual may receive from Access to Work will vary depending on how long they have been employed, what support they need and whether they are self-employed.

Access to Work can pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs if an individual is:

- Unemployed and starting a new job
- Self-employed
- Working for an employer and have been in the job for less than six weeks

Whatever an individual's employment status, Access to Work will also pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs of help with:

- Support workers
- Fares to work
- Communicator support at interview

Access to Work pays a proportion of the costs of support if all of the following apply to an individual:

- They're working for an employer
- They've been in the job for six weeks or more
- They need special equipment or adaptations to premises

The precise level of cost sharing is agreed between the employer and the Access to Work adviser.

After between one and three years, Access to Work will review an individual's circumstances and the support they're receiving.

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Access to Work. Official statistics on the number of individuals helped by Access to Work are published at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=atw>

Results

Table 1 shows the number of Workprep starts during 2010/11 (from 1st April 2010 and upto 30th September 2010), broken down by age and gender. The source of this data is the Labour Market System (LMS) Workprep database.

Table 2 shows the number of individuals in Workstep Supported Employment at 1st October 2010, the number of Workstep Supported Employment starts during 2010/11 (from 1st April 2010 and upto 30th September 2010) and the numbers leaving Workstep Supported Employment during 2010/11 (from 1st April 2010 and upto 30th September 2010). All figures are broken down by age and gender. The source of this data is the Workstep provider database.

Table 3 shows the number of JCP and Provider-Led Pathways starts and job entries during 2010/11 (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011), broken down by age and gender. The source of this data is the JCP and Provider-Led Pathways databases.

Table 4 shows the number of individuals helped by Access to Work during 2010/11 (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011), broken down by age and gender. The source of this data is the Access to Work database.

Gary Gifford (Gary.Gifford@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Department for Work and Pensions

November 2011