

The Brief

CLEAR. CURRENT. RELEVANT.

Brought to you by the DWP Strategic Relationships Team.

This briefing summarises recent announcements and policy developments linked to DWP priorities.

Supporting young people

Retail Giants Back 100,000 Youth Jobs.

A new partnership between DWP and the British Retail Consortium aims to support up to 100,000 jobs for young people by the end of Parliament.

As part of the initiative, the new Opening Shift programme will provide more than 11,000 work experience placements for 18 to 24-year-olds with major retailers including Tesco, John Lewis, Waitrose, Currys and Costa Coffee, offering hands-on experience, workplace support and interview opportunities.

- [Retailers target 100,000 jobs for young people - GOV.UK](#)

Bristol Youth Jobs Fair Connects 900 Young People with Opportunity

More than 900 young people attended Bristol's first Youth Guarantee Jobs Fair, where major employers including GXO, Ocado, Holiday Inn and GKN promoted job, apprenticeship and training opportunities. The event led to 193 interviews, while attendees received careers advice, interview support and a Google-led workshop on using AI to enhance CVs and career planning. The fair forms part of the Government's Youth Guarantee, helping young people move closer to employment.

- [Over 900 young people visit Bristol's first Youth Guarantee Jobs Fair - GOV.UK](#)

From Promise to Pay: Jobs Guarantee Launches

The Government's Jobs Guarantee has reached a key milestone, with the first cohort of young people now starting work, supporting the Prime Minister's priority to tackle youth unemployment.

Designed to create opportunities for those furthest from the labour market, the scheme is backed by major employers including Boots and OCS.

- [Government's Jobs Guarantee turns promise into paycheques for young people - GOV.UK](#)



Build Your Future Workforce

Investing in young people is investing in your business's future. That's why the government is expanding the support available to businesses, investing an additional £2.5 billion in The Youth Guarantee and Growth and Skills Levy. Discover a range of funded programmes and initiatives to help employers benefit from meaningful opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24.

For information on work trials, Youth Jobs Grant, apprenticeships and more.....

Link - [Build Your Future Workforce](#)



YOUTH JOBS GRANT

Our offer to employers

Looking for future talent?

We connect employers with motivated young people ready to develop skills and start careers.

Employers can:

- ▶ Access a pipeline of work-ready 18–24-year-olds on Universal Credit to fill your vacancies.
- ▶ Receive a £3,000 employer payment: £1,800 in week 6 and £1,200 in week 18 of employment.

Employers should:

- ▶ Offer a job for a minimum 25hrs per week, lasting at least 4 months.
- ▶ Complete a short application form and accept simple T&Cs.
- ▶ Sign up, share your vacancies, and we'll refer eligible young people to apply.

Find out more about the help available at:
business.gov.uk/futureworkforce

Eligibility criteria apply.

Young People Gain Skills Through Cadets

Ahead of the UK's first National Cadets Week, cadet forces across Lincolnshire showcased how they help young people develop confidence, resilience and employability skills. Supported by a £70 million government investment, research shows cadet participation improves wellbeing, education and social mobility, helping equip young people with the skills they need for the future.

National Cadets week takes place 5th – 11th October.

- [Cadets in Lincolnshire helping young people build skills for life - GOV.UK](#)

Driving Jobs, Skills and Growth in Scotland

Workers, apprentices, businesses and communities across Scotland are to benefit as the UK Government releases the first £52.1 million from the Local Growth Fund after green-lighting five regions' three-year investment plans for the £140 million initiative.

The locally delivered fund targets Scotland's Regional Partnerships that contain the areas with the lowest Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per capita.

By trusting local knowledge over top-down directives, regional leaders have been empowered to design tailored plans that build physical infrastructure, establish high-growth commercial spaces, and close vital skills gaps.

- [£52 million released to Scotland's regional leaders - GOV.UK](#)

Driving Growth Through Connect to Work

Connect to Work, backed by over £1 billion in government funding, is expanding across England and Wales with personalised employment support delivered in local communities.

The latest figures show the programme is on track to support 300,000 people by the end of the decade, with 25,000 participants joining between April 2025 and June 2026 and 4,100 people moving into work, more than double the previous reporting period.

Over a quarter of participants were aged 16 to 24, supporting the Government's aim to help more people into work and tackle economic inactivity linked to ill-health.

- [Connect to Work delivers for thousands more as programme expands - GOV.UK](#)

Funding the Next Generation of Barristers

The Government has launched a new £1.5 million-a-year scheme that will fund up to 100 additional criminal barrister pupillages each year, helping more young people gain the practical training required to enter the profession.

Designed to widen access for talented candidates from all backgrounds, the initiative aims to strengthen the Criminal Bar by increasing the number of junior advocates and building a sustainable pipeline of talent to support a faster and fairer criminal justice system.

- [Millions to be invested in next generation of legal talent - GOV.UK](#)

DWP and CEC Partner to Support Young People

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) have signed a partnership agreement to help more young people access careers support, work experience and employment opportunities.

The partnership will strengthen collaboration between DWP School Advisers and CEC Careers Hubs, with a focus on supporting young people at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET), while increasing awareness of apprenticeships and vocational pathways.

- [Department for Work & Pensions and The Careers & Enterprise Company strengthen collaboration to support young people | CEC Corporate Web](#)

£500m McLaren Boost Creates 1,000 UK Jobs

McLaren Automotive has announced a £500 million investment in the UK, creating around 1,000 new jobs and expanding its presence in locations including Woking and South Yorkshire.

The investment will support increased research, development and manufacturing activity, contributing to the Government's growth and reindustrialisation ambitions.

By strengthening its long-term commitment to the UK, McLaren is helping to drive economic growth, create skilled employment opportunities, and support communities across the country.

- [Boost for UK auto sector as McLaren unleashes £500m investment to help reindustrialise Britain - GOV.UK](#)

Skills for the Future Partnership to Support Young People into Growth Sectors

A new £75,000 partnership with the City & Guilds Foundation will launch Skills for the Future, helping young people explore opportunities in growth sectors and understand the skills employers value.

In response to findings from the Youth Voice Census 2026, the initiative will develop three digital sector pathway experiences, providing industry insight careers guidance and practical routes from education into employment.

- [Youth Employment UK awarded £75,000 to help young people explore work and build Skills for the Future](#)

Thousands more young people to access help with life's biggest challenges

42 new Young Futures Hubs will open across England helping reverse a decade of decline in local youth services.

The hubs will provide thousands of young people with joined-up support bringing together mental health services, skills and training, employment opportunities and crime prevention in one place.

Alongside access to sports, creative activities and trusted youth workers young people aged 10 to 18 (up to 25 for those with SEND) will be able to access seamless support without having to repeat their story to multiple services.

- [Thousands more young people to access help with life's biggest challenges - GOV.UK](#)

Pathways to Work Innovation Fund – Employers, trade bodies and Partners – 1 October 2026

Help us reach the next great idea: the £60m Pathways to Work Innovation Fund is now open

The Pathways to Work Innovation Fund, worth up to £60m over 2 years, is now open to applications for funding. It is looking for new ideas that could help disabled people and people with long-term health conditions move towards work, get into work or stay and progress in work. We are looking for approaches that respond to and tackle real-world barriers.

Innovation can come from anywhere. It might be a new service, partnership, technology, delivery model or a way of working. The application for funding could be led by a business, charity, social enterprise, university or community organisation. What matters is the strength of the idea, its potential to make a difference and what we will learn from you testing it.

If your organisation has an idea worth exploring, please consider making an application for funding by 26th October.

Find out more about the Fund, eligibility and how to apply on [**Pathways to Work Innovation Fund guidance - GOV.UK**](#)

Disability Services Advocacy Team External Stakeholder Sessions

The Disability Services Advocacy Team delivers awareness sessions for external charities and organisations on Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance for Children (DLAc), Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB), and Access to Work (AtW).

In addition, they offer a range of targeted upskilling sessions to help build knowledge and understanding in specific areas, including:

- PIP Change of Circumstances
- The impact of Care Home, Nursing Home and Hospital Stays on PIP
- DWP Disability Services Support for SEND Schools, Colleges and Support Organisations
- Disability Services Appointees and Other Payees
- Access to Work Post-Award: Claiming from Your Grant

The team are running several information and upskilling sessions for stakeholders on each Disability Benefit, click the date to book:

PIP – 10am [4th November](#) [5th November](#) [6th November](#) [12th November](#)

DLA Child – 1:30pm [18th November](#)

Access to Work – 1:30pm [5th November](#) [11th November](#) or 10:30am [19th November](#)

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit – 1:30pm [12th November](#)

Support for SEND – 10am [17th November](#)

Access to Work Post award – 10:30am [24th November](#) *Completion of Full AtW session recommended

Disability Services Appointees & Other Payee's – 1:30pm [6th October](#)

PIP Change of Circumstances – 10:30am [26th November](#) *Completion of Full PIP session recommended

Effects on PIP – Care Homes, Nursing homes and Hospital stays – 1:30pm [24th November](#)

Useful Information

- Registration via Eventbrite is required to attend our sessions.
- The session joining link will be issued via a Microsoft Teams calendar invite roughly one week before the session.
- Presentation slides will be issued following the session.
- These sessions are intended for charities and organisations that provide free support to individuals managing their DWP benefits and grants.

Please note for stakeholders in Scotland: only Access to Work (AtW) and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) are delivered by the DWP in your area.

If you need to contact the team, please contact us on the below email address:
disabilityservices.advocacyteam@dwp.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

DWP Youth Jobs Grant: Funding and Support for Employers

Find out how your organisation could benefit from the £3,000 DWP Youth Jobs Grant when recruiting eligible young people aged 18–24.

This webinar will explain the funding available, eligibility criteria, and how employers can access support to grow their workforce while creating opportunities for local young people.

10th October 2026 9:30 – 10:30

- [DWP Youth Jobs Grant: Funding and Support for Employers Tickets, Friday, October 2 • 9:30 AM - 10 AM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **For information on the Youth Jobs Grant - [Youth Jobs Grant - Find a grant](#)**

Youth Employment: Let's talk about Careers!

Getting young people interested in work before they leave school helps them build confidence, raise aspirations and make informed career choices. By engaging early, employers can inspire future talent, promote their sector and help shape the workforce of tomorrow.

Why do career talks matter?

Career talks help young people explore career options and prepare for the world of work, while enabling employers to inspire future talent and raise awareness of their organisation.

For information and the latest news about youth employment - [Latest News and Updates | Youth Employment UK](#)

Or follow this guide for what young people want from a Careers Talk:

[What Employers Should Cover in a Careers Talk: A Comprehensive Guide](#)



Are you looking to hire? Do you have a vacancy to advertise?

Find a Job

Employers can advertise vacancies through **Find a Job**, a free online platform that reaches thousands of jobseekers daily. This service complements DWP's local and national support, helping employers connect with candidates quickly and effectively. 2,018 employers engaged in June alone, supporting 79,525 live vacancies, demonstrating strong employer confidence and the platform's reach at scale.

Employing People With a Disability

Disability Confident is a government-backed scheme that encourages employers to take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people. Your local Jobcentre Plus Recruitment Consultant can help you create an inclusive recruitment process that encourages people living with disabilities or long-term health conditions to apply for vacancies.

Employer Services Line

For more tailored support, employers can contact the **Employer Services Line** for expert advice and labour market insights. The Employer Services Line can link you with Jobcentre Plus teams across the UK, helping you tap into a diverse pool of candidates and community networks.



Good News Stories

Do you have a good news story to share? We're always keen to hear about positive partnership activity and success stories.

If you have a good news story that highlights successful collaboration, recruitment outcomes, skills initiatives, or support provided to employers and customers, please contact us at **srt.comms@dwp.gov.uk**.

Stay connected

Employers and partners can keep up to date via:

- **Touchbase** – DWP announcement roundup subscription available: [Subscribe to Touchbase](#)
- **Press Releases** - [Subscribe](#) and receive email alerts from GOV.UK. You may wish to add a search filter for DWP.
- **Wider Government Bulletins** – You may also want to [subscribe](#) to the Business bulletins being issued from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- **HM Revenue and Customs** – You can also sign up for Help and Support emails from HMRC – [HMRC videos, webinars and email alerts](#)