The 6 Month Offer: New Help for the Unemployed

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Introduction

On 12th January 2009 the Prime Minister, James Purnell and Tony McNulty hosted an employment summit with employers, business representatives and skills providers.

At the summit they announced an enhanced package of support for people who have been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for more than 6 months.

The 6 Month Offer

More personalised and intensive help.

Additional mandatory adviser interviews of up to 3 hours in duration for those unemployed between 6 and 12 months.

A skills screening interview plus help to improve skills if needed.

Access to specialist help, for example to:

- Build confidence about finding a new job
- Tackle any problems with debt
- Market their skills more effectively to new employers
- Assess skills and offer access to careers advice (depending on locality)

The 6 Month Offer (continued)

Other help we may offer, depending on a customer's individual needs such as;

In England and Scotland access to training provision

Help setting up in business

Access to new training places

Advice on volunteering work, and;

A recruitment subsidy where an employer is eligible to receive £1,000 to pay for recruitment costs. Our customers are able to self market themselves using this.

Help for people to set up in business

Working with Business link in England and equivalent bodies in Wales and Scotland, short courses will be available giving advice on setting up a business.

For customers moving from benefit into self employment a new self employment credit of £50 a week for up to 16 weeks will be available.

Work focused training offer in England

Delivered by Jobcentre Plus and the LSC.

Additional 75,000 training places at Further Education colleges

The offer is about providing work focused training linked to local job opportunities.

In some circumstances customers will be able to undertake up to 8 weeks full time training. Or the training can be done either 2 weeks full time or on a part time basis.

Work focused training offer in Scotland/Wales

Delivered through our Training for Work (TfW) programme.

This programme provides support for adults who are unemployed and actively looking for work.

The programme puts people through vocational training linked to local job opportunities.

Trainees received £10 a week allowance on top of Benefits.

In Wales the Government is currently in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government.

What is the volunteering offer?

It is felt that short periods of voluntary work can help some people take up paid employment.

Third sector partners will be appointed to broker suitable work focused volunteering placements for customers.

Customers stay on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) whilst volunteering.

We expect some 40,000 customers to take up this offer.

What is the Recruitment Subsidy?

£250 million is being made available for the Recruitment Subsidy over a 2 year period 2009-10 and 2010-1.

£1000 payment to employers for recruiting eligible 6 month plus Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) customers;

The job must last for at least 26 weeks or more and average at least 16 hours per week.

The £1000 is an upfront recognition for potential recruitment costs and is not intended as a wage subsidy.

No limit on number of claims or frequency.

Eligible customers receive a self-marketing voucher.

Additional Support for Employers

Employers in England can combine the subsidy with access to Train to Gain. This is typically worth £1500 towards in work training

Employers in Scotland can utilise Employed Status training for work for any in work training required.

Only the Recruitment Subsidy is available at present for employers in Wales

Recruitment Subsidy Headlines

It is hoped that 200,000 of our customers will find work through Recruitment Subsidy over the next 2 years.

Getting our major national employers to commit themselves to Recruitment Subsidy is pivotal to our success.

Since implementation on 6th April 2009, 151 of the big national employers have given us verbal assurance that they will commit to Recruitment Subsidy and use it as a part of their recruitment.

Recruitment Subsidy – Employer Testimonials

Royal Mail

“Royal Mail already enjoys a great working relationship with Jobcentre Plus. Giving our support to the recruitment subsidy scheme is just a logical extension of that work.

With Jobcentre Plus’ support we can focus our recruitment efforts on those candidates who are more likely to be disadvantaged in the current job market; unemployed for six months, or more, and claiming JSA.

Targeting and employing this group of people brings benefits to everyone; Royal Mail gets a committed employee, the individual gets the security of a steady paycheque and the economy gets money from taxes and employee spending.”

Recruitment Subsidy – Employer Testimonials

Dunelm Mill

“Dunelm Mill have long supported the active recruitment of candidates who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance, having worked closely with Jobcentre Plus over the past few years.

Recruitment subsidy scheme is an excellent extension to this and we are keen to encourage those who are long term unemployed back into work as they have proven to be a great asset to Dunelm Mill.

Not only will we be recruiting via this scheme but we will also be looking at offering suitable candidates the ability to develop their skills further, through helping them to work towards the Retail NVQ.”

Recruitment Subsidy – Employer Testimonials

Poundland

“The recruitment subsidy will enable us to encourage all of our store managers to offer more people jobs.

“We will continue to recruit into our new stores, for which we have at least 30 planned for this financial year – creating approximately 1,200 new jobs.”

Nestor Healthcare

“We look forward to working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus through the Recruitment Subsidy scheme. We’ll be launching this in all of our 100 branches and we will encourage all our managers to advertise recruitment in Jobcentres if they haven’t already done so.”

Budget April 2009

In the budget last week a further £3.1 billion was provided to help people looking for work;

A guaranteed offer of work or training to every 18-24 year old in Britain at risk of becoming long term unemployed.

More than £1 billion will be invested in young people.

The Government will fund 250,000 jobs in the public and private sector.

150,000 new jobs in local communities will be created through the Future Jobs Fund.

In addition to the Future Jobs Fund 100,000 job opportunities will be offered in growth sectors and sectors of the future.