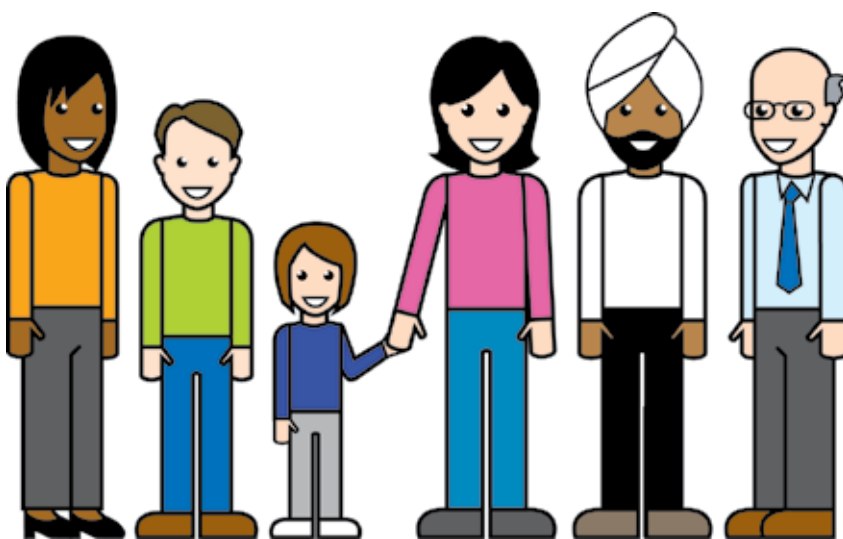




Easy Read



December 2007

Ready for work

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

We know this is a big booklet. And we don't expect you to read all of it.

Instead, look at the list of contents on pages 1 to 4. This shows everything in the booklet. You can look down the list to find things that affect you.

For example

- If you want to know what we say about jobs for disabled people and people off work sick, go to Chapter 4 that starts on page 43 and ends on page 52.
- If you want to know what we say about jobs for people who find it hard to get work, go to Chapter 5 that starts on page 53 and ends on page 61.

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

When we first mention any of these words, it is in **bold maroon** writing. A box then shows what the words mean.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words list at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal maroon** writing. If you see words in **normal maroon** writing, you can look up what they mean in the Words list.

Contents

What the Minister says	5
Summary	9
Changes that are needed	10
1 Rights and responsibilities	10
2 A service made for each claimant	11
3 Working together	12
4 Areas where a lot of people don't work	12
5 Better jobs	12
Other things we will do	13
Making work pay	13
Lone parents getting benefits	13
New Deals	15
Disabled people and people off work sick	15
Better results from working with others	17
Training	17
Chapter 1: Jobs that last	19
Introduction	19
Why work matters	21
Helping people into work	23
Jobs for more people – and quickly	25
A last few words about Chapter 1	26

Chapter 2: Jobs for lone parents	27
Introduction	28
What people told us about our plans	29
Childcare	29
Working hours suitable for lone parents	30
What we expect of lone parents	30
What happens in other countries	31
When the new rules don't apply	32
Lone parents on Jobseeker's Allowance	32
Help before starting work	34
Help after work starts	35
Skills for lone parents	36
A last few words about Chapter 2	36
Chapter 3: Jobs for job seekers	37
Introduction	38
The flexible New Deal	38
At the start of a claim	39
After 6 months	40
After 12 months	41
People often without work for a long time	42
A last few words about Chapter 3	42

Chapter 4: Jobs for disabled people and people off work sick	43
Introduction	44
What we are doing	45
Pathways to Work	46
Employment and Support Allowance	48
Helping people to do what they can	50
Helping people stay in work	50
A last few words about Chapter 4	52
Chapter 5: Jobs for people who find it hard to get work	53
Council/housing association houses	54
Young people	55
Ethnic minorities: people who come from different places	57
Treating people fairly and as individuals	57
Older people	59
Harder-to-help people	61
Chapter 6: Jobs that last	62
Jobcentre Plus	63
Working with partner organisations	65
Working with local partners	66
The City Strategy	67
Working with local employers	68
The future	70
A few last words about Chapter 6	70

Chapter 7: The benefits system	71
A better benefits system	71
A single system	73
Changes over time	74
Chapter 8: Conclusion	75
Words list	77
Pictures list	81

What the Minister says...

The Government wants everyone to be treated fairly and share in the country's success.

We want families with children to have enough money to live a good life. And while we will support people who cannot work, we want those who can work to do so.

Work is good for people and for the country.

- Work gives people more money in their pockets.
- Work is good for health.
- Work is good for families.
- Work helps people live happily side by side.



This booklet shows how we will make these things happen by making changes to the way our benefit system works.

We are living in good times – more people than ever are working. And fewer people have no job or are off work sick.

We have already helped improve the lives of 600,000 children. And 300,000 more will be helped by things we started earlier this year.

We have also helped a lot of people move into work. But we must do more because there are still people living on benefits who could work if they had the right support. We will support these people so they can move into the 680,000 jobs that need filling.

We want people who can work to look for and prepare for work. To do this we will change the benefits system. And we will help by bringing the New Deals up to date.

The new Employment and Support Allowance will be brought in for new claimants who are sick or disabled. This benefit looks at what a person can do, rather than what they can't.



And from October 2008, **lone parents** whose youngest child is 12 or over will have to look for work. From October 2009 the age of the youngest child will reduce to 10, and to 7 from October 2010.

Lone parent

These are single people with 1 or more children.

Our aim is to get British benefit claimants into British jobs so that they become British workers.

And we will make sure that people are better off working than getting benefits. For example, through the National Minimum Wage, and working benefits and tax credits.

When deciding on these changes, we were guided by experts. And by the 3 reports written by Harker, Leitch and Freud. We also looked at what worked well in other countries.

Our new benefits system is one in which most claimants will look for and prepare to return to work. And by returning to work, they and their families will be better off.

Our promise is unchanged: we will help people who can work to have better lives through working. And for those who cannot work, we will have a better benefits system.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hain'.

Peter Hain

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

This is a blank page