

Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment

Quick Summary

In the White Paper *Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment* (published on 15 December 2009), Work and Pensions Secretary Yvette Cooper announced that over 100,000 new opportunities for young people will mean everyone under 25 will be guaranteed a job, training or work experience after six months' unemployment.

She also announced a guarantee that every person on benefits for at least six months, whatever their age, would be at least £40 per week better off when moving into work. This new back-to-work credit will guarantee work pays.

The White Paper also sets out more help for older workers, professionals, lone parents and carers as part of a wide ranging package of support designed to help jobseekers.

People will get more support from Jobcentre Plus through a more personalised service for customers, including piloting a new more flexible approach in four Jobcentre Plus districts: Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon; South-west Wales; Glasgow; and Greater Manchester.

This is the next step in the reform of the welfare system to make sure work pays and help people off benefits and into jobs, reforms which are supported by major proposed reforms to Housing Benefit.

A major reform to Housing Benefit, *Supporting people into work: the next stage of Housing Benefit reform*, has been published at the same time as this White Paper, proposing more help for people to move off benefits and into work by getting rid of excessively high rent payments and keeping benefit payments stable as people take up a job, so that for the first three months they don't need to worry about meeting their housing costs.

Alongside the White Paper, Ministers launched a cross-Government 16-24 year olds participation strategy, *Investing in Potential*. This set out what the Government is doing to increase the number of young people aged 16 to 24 in education, training and employment.

The full text of the White Paper is published online at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/buildingbritainsrecovery