

The Youth Contract Offer

The **DWP-led elements** of the Youth Contract which are now available include:

- 160,000 wage incentives worth up to £2,275 each, for employers who recruit an 18-24 year-old from the Work Programme;
- An extra 250,000 work experience places, including those that offer training and guaranteed interviews, ensuring that there is an offer of a place for every 18 to 24 year-old who wants one, before they enter the Work Programme; and
- Extra adviser support through Jobcentre Plus for all 18-24 year olds including a referral to a careers interview delivered by the National Careers Service within the first 3 months of a Jobseeker's Allowance claim.

Wage incentives

Youth Contract:

- 160,000 wage incentives worth up to £2,275 each, are now available to employers who recruit an 18-24 year-old from the Work Programme for at least 26 weeks.
- For employers to claim the Wage Incentive, the job has to be expected to be a sustained permanent job.
- Wage incentives will usually be paid after a young person has been employed for 26 weeks however smaller employers will be able to receive a part payment after 8 weeks worth up to £700.
- Two Wage Incentive rates are also available once a young person has remained in work for 26 weeks. This includes a full payment of £2,275 for a full-time job (30+ hours per week) and a part-time rate (16-29 hours per week) of £1,137.50.
- Wage incentives are primarily available to the private, voluntary and community sectors and social enterprise employers. Central Government Departments and their executive agencies will be excluded from claiming them, but the wider public sector, such as NHS trusts, will not.
- Work Programme providers are responsible for working with employers to identify suitable opportunities where a wage incentive can be paid and an individual on the Work Programme can only attract one wage incentive.
- Interested employers can find out more by visiting the [DWP Youth Contract](#) website or by contacting local Work Programme providers direct:

| Provider | Contact name | Telephone | Email |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Prospect Services | Simon Flenley | 07818013703 | simon.flenley@prospects.co.uk |
| Working Links | Sue Dann | 07791 226705 | sue.dann@workinglinks.co.uk |

AGE 16-24:

- Through the Youth Contract, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have also made, through the AGE 16-24 programme, an extra 20,000 apprenticeship incentive payments available, worth £1500 each, to small employers (<250 employees) who take on their first apprentice aged 16-24 years old.. This takes the the total number of Apprenticeship Incentive payments through AGE 16-24 to 40,000. These incentive payments are available now in England and are administered by the National Apprenticeship Service. Further information is available on the [National Apprenticeship Service website](#)  

Note: An employer cannot access the Youth Contract Grant (£2,275) and AGE 16-24 (£1,500) for the same individual.

Support for disengaged 16 to 17 year olds in England

- As part of the Youth Contract, Government announced plans to invest £126m in England over the next three years to support the most disengaged and disadvantaged 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.
- On 21 February, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that Government would use this new resource to introduce a programme to help disengaged 16 and 17 year olds make a sustainable move into full-time education, an Apprenticeship or work with training.
- Under the new scheme, providers will be rewarded for their successes through a strong system of payment by results, paying them when they have moved disengaged young people into positive outcomes and kept them engaged in lasting activity.
- Contracts for the new programme will be expected to be in place by June 2012 and will be let on a regional basis following an open competition run by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).
- Further information on this programme is available on the [YPLA website](#)  .

Karen Hooper

Jobcentre Plus karen.hooper@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

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