


A Guide to the Jobcentre Plus

For Parents

A photograph of a green sign with the text 'jobcentreplus' in white and yellow, mounted on a building facade. The sign is partially obscured by a diagonal white line and a light blue circular graphic in the top right corner of the page.

jobcentreplus

About Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus can help young people as they transition from education into employment. It is often (and incorrectly) assumed to deliver support to adults only, when in fact they have lots of support and programmes specifically designed for young people.

This guide aims to help parents understand what services the Jobcentre Plus provides for young people and how they can get in touch.



What is Jobcentre Plus?

[Jobcentre Plus](#) is an organisation that helps people in the UK find work. Government-funded, it's part of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In Northern Ireland, you can find employability support through their [Jobs & Benefits Offices](#).

Who can use Jobcentre Plus?

Jobcentre Plus can be used by young people from the age of 18 who are claiming benefits of some kind, and must be looking for jobs, work or paid training.

Jobcentre Plus does also support young people from the age of 16 who are receiving benefits in exceptional circumstances, and more information about this can be found here [Claims by 16 and 17 year olds - Entitled to](#).

More information can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim>

A large, stylized graphic of the 'Jobcentre Plus' logo in a light green color, tilted diagonally. The text 'Jobcentre Plus' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Job' and 'Plus' in a darker shade and 'centre' in a lighter shade.

How can Jobcentre Plus help support young people?

Jobcentre Plus helps people prepare for, find and stay in work. They will:

- Help a young person identify their skills and strengths
- Help a young person find jobs and opportunities
- Provide support and advice
- Deliver or organise free training
- Offer financial support
- Help find training opportunities
- Share information about job fairs where young people can meet different employers

Programmes for young people

The DWP has designed their [Youth Offer](#) to specifically help young people aged 16-24 years old (in England, Scotland and Wales).

The Youth Offer has 3 different types of support for young people, including their:

1. [Youth Employment Programme](#)

2. [Youth Hubs](#)

3. [Youth Employability Coaches](#)



In Northern Ireland they have developed a [JobStart Scheme](#) for 16-24 year olds who are unemployed and finding it hard to get a job.

They have also designed a [Skills for Life and Work programme](#) to equip young people for the world of work.



Will they judge my child?

Jobcentre Plus is there to help, not judge. Staff will be kind and understanding, and know how hard it can be to find the right job.

Your child may feel anxious or nervous at the thought of attending a local Job Centre.

It is important for them to understand that there is no shame in struggling to find work, and that most seasoned professionals have had periods of unemployment.

By going to the Job Centre, they are actively making an effort to find work, which they should recognise as a positive step.

How can my child find support?

Jobcentre Plus work coaches only provide personalised support to those unemployed and claiming benefits. When a person starts to claim financial support, they will automatically be assigned a work coach.

You can find more information about the different types of financial support offered [here](#), and your child can explore what they are eligible for. They can also explore our information on how to use the Jobcentre Plus [here](#).

In Northern Ireland, your child can contact their local [Jobs & Benefits Office](#) for information on the range of services and support they can provide.