

Getting Britain Working

It has been announced that Mayors and local leaders will lead a new health and skills drive to crack down on rising numbers of people out of work. Councils and Mayors will be tasked with providing localised and tailored support to get people into employment.

While there is a plethora of job search facilities and various other aspects of support available to people, our research has shown that there does not seem to be a facility that offers a central port of call for people adapting to changes in their lives. Hence, we developed a set of guides to support communities by creating an online one-stop shop to support people via the internet. This support can be accessed from anywhere that they choose, at any time and in any place that they feel comfortable in doing so.

Our aim is to support people to become better off through work, to enable resilience not reliance and to provide information, advice and guidance for those that need it.

The guides have been designed for Council Advice Centres/Libraries and other organisations involved in supporting people in their journey from welfare to work and helping people to settle seamlessly into the United Kingdom. They cover many topics from Computer Awareness, Job Search, Welfare Benefits, Claimant Compliance and Job Loss, through to advice and guidance to support people who are new to the United Kingdom, including refugees and asylum seekers.

The guides cater for speech, language, accessibility and have their own administration system to monitor usage and progression. The administration system can be used to establish a person's initial knowledge of Job-Hunting skills and can be used again to demonstrate their progression following the use of our guides. Assess - Learn - Assess.

Statistics show that if a person has been unemployed for longer than twelve months then there is every chance that they will remain unemployed for three years or longer because they will have joined the benefit system. They will have become discouraged to access any short-term employment or retraining opportunities due to becoming benefit reliant. Over the years we have been involved with and witnessed many initiatives to support people on their journey from welfare to work. Sadly, for various reasons, they have not been as successful as they were meant to be.

With the above in mind, we have put together the concept of Alternative Direction And Prospective Training (ADAPT.) which can both change and address this situation, by providing people with a route to sustainable employment.

To enable consistency and impartiality, an assessment process has been developed to establish peoples progress in their knowledge of the skills and information required to enable a positive outcome in their journey from welfare to work.

Given the enthusiasm by various cabinet ministers to introduce a national initiative with a local emphasise, it is suggested that you may wish to positively consider the methodology that was previously considered by Gordon Brown to be a possible way forward in helping people in their journey from welfare to work. This would enable cost-free access, for people who live in Local Authority areas, which subscribe to facilitate access to the Community Support guides for their communities.

The Getting Britain Working white paper, said the eight authorities selected for the youth trailblazer schemes "will design and test how different elements of the guarantee can be brought together into a coherent offer for young people, with clear leadership and accountability and proactive engagement to make sure no young person misses out".

"All trailblazers will have a set of agreed outcomes, shared governance and a commitment to robust evaluation and learning," it added.