

Think Family Programme DWP Employment Outreach Offer 2016

About this partnership and offer:

Employment is a key part of Think Family in Birmingham. Together, DWP and Think Family will provide personalised support that helps families move closer to employment. Helping to maximise household income and demonstrate how families are better off in work. The team are knowledgeable on welfare reform and the likely impact on families. **With access to DWP benefit systems and live employment opportunities across the city;** DWP & TF will work toward direct employment with adults and peer support employability in whole family plans.

Eligibility:

- This offer applies to families with a Think Family (TF) number that are being worked with under **an open TF case with a dedicated worker**
- Where income is from **an out of work benefit claim**
 - Includes: Jobseekers Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support and Carers Allowance - with future regard to Universal Credit.
 - **If any family member is claiming JSA you should definitely make a referral.**
- This offer benefits most where a family member is:
 - Looking for work or willing to with the right support
 - Looking to improve their employability through training and learning opportunities that could increase their skills or help them gain a qualifications – DWP have access to networks to support this
 - Where victims of Domestic & Emotional Abuse require additional support to be ready for work

What we can do:

- **Job readiness** - CVs, applying & searching for jobs, interview techniques.
- **Access** - Live job opportunities and supportive employers, pathways to training or qualifications that improve employability.
- **Benefits** - Checking all eligible DWP benefit entitlement, better off in work calculations, support to manage deductions from benefits and financial exclusion.
- **Remove Barriers** - Easement for victims of Domestic & Emotional Abuse and Violence, to avoid issues with DWP benefit payments. Accessing funds for families DWP work with, for work wear and 4 weeks free travel cost as well as
- **Support** - With regard to employment and employability with specialist support around Mental Health and Disability. Act as advocates for family members and challenge behaviours positively. Ensure effective partnership with local jobcentres helping families making progress avoid benefit sanctions.

Limitations:

- If families are failing to engage we can arrange for a DWP visiting officer to make a home visit to explain the family's responsibilities in respect of their claim to benefit and encourage them to engage with TF providers.
- We do not manage issues surrounding debt, tenancy, rent arrears, council tax, notices to vacate or bailiff actions. We will support but not lead on these issues and would expect dedicated workers to be resolving such family issues

How to refer:

Contact by phone on: **0121 255 8304** or email completed referral template to birmingham-solihull.outreachteam@dwp.gsi.gov.uk and have the following information to hand:

- TF number.
- Name of all family members including,
 - date of birth,
 - National Insurance number,
 - address,
 - Contact details (mobile, email address).
 - Benefit type (JSA, ESA, IS, CA, UC, CTC, CHB, HB, CTS).
- What aspirations each individual being referred has, to help us to identify the type of support needed, consider the following:
 - Education and qualifications,
 - Previous experience & employment goals,
 - Any other information i.e. criminal record, domestic violence, issues with children.

Remember maximising household income through employment is a key component of the Think Family programme. From experience we have seen that early referrals to this team and working together with DWP has positive outcomes for families

Call us to discuss!

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