

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES KICKSTART SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE WORK PLACEMENT TO 16 TO 24 YEAR OLDS

3rd September 2020

The government has launched an innovative new scheme to help young people into work and spur Britain's economic revival.

Businesses are now able to sign up to be part of the landmark £2 billion Kickstart scheme, giving unemployed young people a future of opportunity and hope by creating high-quality, government-subsidised jobs across the UK.

Under the scheme, announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak as part of his Plan for Jobs, employers can offer youngsters aged 16-24 who are claiming Universal Credit a six-month work placement.

The government will fully fund each "Kickstart" job - paying 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week.

Employers will be able to top up this wage, while the government will also pay employers £1,500 to set up support and training for people on a Kickstart placement, as well as helping pay for uniforms and other set up costs. The jobs will give young people – who are more likely to have been furloughed, with many working in sectors disproportionately hit by the pandemic - the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and to gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

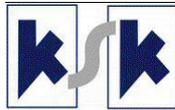
What employer's need to know

- **Employers creating more than 30 job placements will be able to apply direct.**
- **Employers offering less than 30 job placements will need to partner with other organisations to create at least 30 job placements with one member taking responsibility for a representative claim.**

How the scheme works

You can use the Kickstart Scheme to create new 6-month job placements for young people who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The job placements should support the participants to develop the skills and experience they need to find work after completing the scheme.

Funding is available for 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. There is also £1,500 per job placement available for setup costs, support and training.



Funding is available following a successful application process. Applications must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If you are unable to offer this many job placements, you can partner with other organisations to reach the minimum number. [see further information below].

If you are a representative applying on behalf of a group of employers, you can get £300 of funding to support with the associated administrative costs of bringing together these employers.

Kickstart is not an apprenticeship, but participants may move on to an apprenticeship at any time during, or after their job placement.

The Kickstart Scheme is available in England, Scotland and Wales.

Becoming a representative

A Kickstart Scheme application must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If a single employer cannot provide this many job placements, they can:

- join a group of other employers, nominating a representative for the group to submit the application
- register their interest with existing representatives, such as local authorities, chambers of commerce or trade bodies

The representative will check that your job placements are eligible for the Kickstart Scheme, and submit the application for funding on your behalf.

Finding a representative

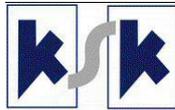
You can contact your local or national Kickstart Scheme employer contact for help getting a representative. [See list below].

Responsibilities of a representative

The representative must have:

- experience of managing partnership agreements with third parties
- robust financial and governance processes to manage the application

The government will carry out an assessment of the suitability of representatives; and may contact you for further information during the application process.



The government are not currently accepting applications from representatives who do not have this experience, we will provide further information in future on how these groups can become a representative.

How to apply as a representative

As a representative, you need to have a minimum of 30 job placements from your group of employers before applying.

You will need:

- details of the job placements proposed by your group of employers
- details of their business
- information about the support they plan to offer the young people

Employer Contacts:

England:

West Midlands	westmidlands.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
East and Central Midlands	eastmidlands.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
London and Essex	londonandessex.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
North Central (includes West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lancashire)	northcentral.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
North East (includes North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, Humberside and North Lincolnshire)	northeast.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
North West (includes Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire)	northwest.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
South West	southwest.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
South East	southeast.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
Scotland:	scotland.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
Wales:	wales.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk
National contact:	national.kickstart@dwp.gov.uk