

# Mercia District Partnership Monthly Update January 2019 Edition



Department for Work & Pensions

Mercia District comprises: Coventry, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

This newsletter is primarily for key DWP Stakeholders across Mercia District. Its objective is to provide information and updates on DWP Benefits and Services. The content is for general guidance and is liable to change.

Item	Topic	Links
1:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EU Exit Campaign</b></p> <p>The United Kingdom will leave the European Union (EU) on <b>29 March 2019</b>. Leaving the EU means a number of changes that will affect businesses and individual citizens. For more information on how to prepare and the steps you may need to take please access the link opposite.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">EU Exit Campaign</a></p>
2:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tackling Parental Conflict</b></p> <p>A <b>£2.7 million fund to increase support for disadvantaged families</b> at risk of parental conflict has been announced. The fund will be made up of 2 separate strands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1.1M funding for projects supporting families at a greater risk of parental conflict;</li> <li>• £1.6M funding for digital support to assist parent in finding help online.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Tackling parental conflict</a></p>
3:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extra support for Disadvantaged Children</b></p> <p>Thousands more <b>disadvantaged children</b> will benefit from free meals and activities during the school holidays, <b>under a £9 million Government programme</b>. Organisations from across the country have been invited to bid for a share of the multi-million-pound Government investment to deliver holiday clubs for pupils eligible for free school meals during the 2019 summer break.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Extra support Govt Programme</a></p>
4:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>My Way In</b></p> <p>The <b>My Way In</b> website on GOV.UK shares stories and advice from people in work and employers all across the UK. On the site there are tips to help people broaden their experience and the number of jobs they have access to as well as information about the industries which are likely to have vacancies in the future.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">My Way In</a></p>
5:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How Jobcentre Plus can help Employers</b></p> <p>A summary of the extensive range of services Jobcentre Plus offers to help employers to grow and develop their business.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Find a Job</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Working together with Employers</a></p>
6:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Easy Read Guide to Access to Work</b></p> <p>An easy read guide which helps people with learning disabilities to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what Access to Work is;</li> <li>• who can get Access to Work;</li> <li>• how to apply for Access to Work.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Access to Work</a></p>

<p>7:</p> <p>8:</p> <p>9:</p> <p>10:</p> <p>11:</p> <p>12:</p> <p>13:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pension Credit Changes – Mixed Aged Couples</b></p> <p>From <b>15 May 2019</b>, mixed age couples will no longer have the choice of being a pensioner couple. Pension Credit and pension age Housing Benefit will only be available when both members of the couple have reached State Pension age, unless the couple are already receiving Pension Credit and/or pension age Housing Benefit.</p> <p>The <b>Pension Credit Toolkit</b> has been updated to reflect these changes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Apprenticeships – Fire It Up Campaign</b></p> <p>The Government is launching a new campaign to promote apprenticeships among young people, parents and employers. For more information please access the links opposite.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blue Badges – new on-line service</b></p> <p>People eligible for <b>Blue Badges</b> can apply in a fraction of the previous time, thanks to a <b>new online service</b>. The new service will mean applicants can complete the entire process without the time-consuming task of sending their supporting documents in the post, allowing people to upload documents instead, including proof of identity, and photographs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DWP Visiting Service</b></p> <p>There is now a webpage on GOV.UK which gives customers information about the <b>DWP Visiting Service</b>. It includes information on how the service operates and what to expect at an appointment from a visiting officer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Schemes to help Care Leavers</b></p> <p><b>New projects</b> have launched to improve the education and training of young people leaving care, helping them make the transition into independent life. <b>Care leavers will benefit</b> from a <b>£5 million investment</b> in programmes that deliver specialist, <b>bespoke support</b> through personal advisers and transition coaches. The pilot schemes are designed to develop care leavers' confidence, communications and skills needed to enter sustained education, employment and training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supporting Women to return to Work</b></p> <p>Victims of domestic abuse, homelessness or substance abuse, will be supported to return to work by a <b>new £500,000 government fund, launched on 7 Feb 2019</b> by the Minister for Women and Equalities. Grants will only go to those organisations which can show they have direct relationships with employers who can offer jobs opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Touchbase Newsletter</b></p> <p><b>Touchbase</b> is a <b>digital newsletter</b> containing <b>DWP news</b> about <b>working age and pension related benefits and services</b>. Also news and articles from across government organisations that help people find jobs.</p> <p>The <b>February 2019 issue</b> includes articles on: Universal Credit Changes, Help to Save Scheme, Workplace Pension new year campaign launch, National mentoring initiative to tackle employment inequality across the UK. <b>To read the latest issue or to subscribe, click on the opposite link.</b></p>	<p><a href="#">State Pension age</a></p> <p><a href="#">Pension Credit Toolkit</a></p> <p><a href="#">Apprenticeships Campaign</a></p> <p><a href="#">Fire It Up</a></p> <p><a href="#">Blue Badge On-line Service</a></p> <p><a href="#">Support visits for help to claim benefits</a></p> <p><a href="#">New Schemes to help Care Leavers</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supporting Women Government Fund</a></p> <p><a href="#">Touchbase</a></p>
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