



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# **FASET AGM**

**Claire Smalley, DWP**



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Welcome

Claire Smalley

Partnerships & Stakeholders Team, Strategic Relationships Team (SRT)

# About DWP

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**DWP's aim is to improve people's day to day lives and help them build financial resilience and a more secure and prosperous future.**

We are responsible for:

- helping people to move into work and supporting those already in work to progress, with the aim of increasing overall workforce participation
- helping people to plan and save for later life, while providing a safety net for those who need it now
- providing effective, efficient, and innovative services to the millions of claimants who rely on us every day, including the most vulnerable in society
- improving experience of our services while maximising value for money for the taxpayer



# Our Priorities for 2025 - 26

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**Maximizing Employment and Reducing Economic Inactivity**



**Reforming the Welfare System**



**Supporting People with Disabilities and Health Conditions**



**Digital Transformation and Smarter Delivery**



**Financial Sustainability and Efficiency**

# How DWP is evolving

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## Get Britain Working White Paper

The Government has produced the **Get Britain Working White Paper** to drive forward approaches to tackling economic inactivity and work toward the goal of an 80% employment rate.

Building a thriving labour market, reducing economic inactivity and increasing the number of people in work will be central to growing the economy



## What this means for DWP

Fundamental reforms for DWP will be delivered in three, interconnected parts:

- A new service to support more people into work and help them in work, bringing together Jobcentre Plus with the **National Careers Service (NJCS)**
- Local plans for areas across England setting out how economic inactivity will be tackled at a local level, led by Mayors and local areas.
- A **Youth Guarantee** for all young people aged 18 to 21 in England, to ensure they have an offer of education, training or help to find work.

# Employer Engagement Strategy

At the heart of DWP's transformation is a renewed focus on employers. Our new Employer Strategy is designed to build stronger, more collaborative relationships with employers, ensuring our services are aligned with real-world workforce needs.



# About the Strategic Relationship Team

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We are a dedicated national team of Recruitment and Employment Sales Managers working with employers, trade bodies and partners to offer advice, solutions and bespoke support.

- A single national point of contact with the DWP and local Jobcentres
- Cross sector networking and events with key stakeholders and industry influencers
- Promotion of vacancies and agreeing bespoke recruitment activities
- Information and advice about Jobcentre Plus initiatives and programmes
- maximising value for money for the taxpayer



# Local Labour Market Expertise

## Place-Based Support Approach

DWP Employer Services uses a place-based approach focusing on local labour market knowledge to support employers effectively.

## Collaborative Community Engagement

We collaborate with partners and stakeholders to address sector challenges and support business growth in the local economy.

## Strategic Recruitment Solutions

Our insights help employers navigate recruitment challenges and access new talent pools tailored to local market needs.



# **Our case for needing strong relationships**

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**70% of employers are unaware of the free support that Jobcentres can provide to businesses**

Source DWP Employer Survey 2024

# Tracey Hill from the Home Builders Federation



# DWP support for employers

# Our free employer services

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**Find a Job**



**Local  
Employer  
Advisors**



**Employer  
Services Line**



**Jobcentre  
Plus  
facilities and  
events**



**Disability  
Confident**

**We also support employers in a redundancy situation, which can be a good source of recruitment for others**

# Our free employer services

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**Sector Based  
Work  
Academies  
(SWAPs)**



**Work  
Experience**



**Work Trials**



**Redundancy  
support**



**Access to  
Work**

# **How we have supported the construction sector**

## 2025 CONSTRUCTION CAMPAIGN

Total Number of  
**Employers** participating in  
the campaign in week?

1,291

Total Number of New  
**Employers** Of which, how  
many are new employers?

483

Total Number of Industry  
**experts** in the Jobcentre.

496

Number of GIS Sessions  
held?

566

Number of Attendees at  
GIS sessions.

4,242

Number of Jobs Fairs  
held?

181

Number of Attendees at  
Jobs Fairs?

19,014

Number of PET/SWAP/  
WSEP or Bootcamp  
starts?

1,301

Number of PET/SWAP/  
WSEP or Bootcamp jobs  
to be filled in?

361

Number of DWP staff  
attending at IOK visits?

722

Number of Jobseekers  
attending at IOK visits?

473



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# Thank you for listening

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