



nextstep update for Shropshire Telford & Wrekin

Information for nextstep managers, advisers
and other services supporting adults in Shropshire

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Careers Guidance • In-depth jobsearch advice • Access to careers software & resources
Identification of transferable skills & career change • Advice on learning

Free, impartial, confidential advice for adults 20+, with no or few* qualifications

* below Level 2

Hello everybody!

Here's the latest collation of Shropshire-based information, which is relevant to nextstep advisers and organisations referring to nextstep.

At a recent stakeholder event, 20 February, jobcentreplus (JCP) provided an update of how some of their provision will change as a result of Welfare Reforms. As we receive a large number of referrals from JCP, it pays for nextstep advisers to be aware of these changes. For more details see page 2.

I have also listed some upcoming dates and meeting for you. Please remember that if you have any information, which is relevant to the network, I can include your information in these updates.

Regards, Marion Versluijs, nextstep STW coordinator

It's easy to get in touch or refer to nextstep:

People living or working in Shropshire can call/text 07967 226683.

Likewise, for Telford call 01952 382946.

Visit nextstepstw.org.uk



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Changes to jobcentreplus services

(Information from JCP stakeholder event, 20 Feb 2008)

Welfare Reform developments as described in the reports 'Welfare to Workforce Development' and 'Opportunity, employment and progression; making skills work'.

Overview: Welfare reform aims

- To achieve a fairer, more inclusive society
- Nobody is held back by disadvantage or lack of opportunity
- To eradicate child poverty

New Service for people with health problems and disabilities

... will become 'Pathways to Work' in our area from April 2008.

In our area, JCP have contracted with Remploy to deliver this provision. Support focuses on a number of work-focused interviews, as well as pre- and in-employment support.

From October 2008, *Incapacity Benefit* will be replaced by an *Employment and Support Allowance* (ESA) for new and repeat applicants.

New Service for Lone Parents

... from October 2008, Lone Parents whose child is 12+ will no longer be entitled to claim Income Support. JCP advisers will discuss other choices with claimants, such as Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

New Service for Long-term unemployed

... from April 2008, the existing range of *New Deals* will be grouped into Flexible New Deal, which will apply to customers claiming for longer than 6 months. This service will be more flexible and personalised.

The event also focused on JCP's commitment

- to work more closely with local employers, through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs)
- to integrate its employment service with skills providers.



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Shropshire Star Jobfinder event ...

.... will take place on March 7-8, at the Telford towncentre shopping centre.

Next nextstep network meeting:

This will take place on Thursday, March 13th, from 9:15-11am, at a Telford venue (tbc).

New guide for nextstep advisers ...

... about financial help for adult learners. We have ordered some copies of this for the next meeting.

The guide is also available from
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-lsc-p-070147_acc.pdf

Our guest speaker will be David Round, the newly appointed Lifelong Learning Network (LLN) IAG coordinator For our area.

He will give us an overview of the aims of the LLN and the role of IAG.

Behind the scenery

It's self-assessment time again for the nextstep network!

Rob Hedison is looking to organise a one-off adviser focus group to have your views about your nextstep activities. He'll be in touch shortly.

Development for nextstep advisers:

6 March: Integrative approach to interventions

14 March: Working with ex-offenders

Nextstep in a nutshell ...

- Career Guidance
- In-depth jobsearch skills
- Independent info on courses and training
- Help with CV & Interview preparation
- Identifying transferable skills for career changers