

A Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits

Publication Date: 01/05/2006

Closing Date: *Not Applicable*

Publisher: The Department of Works and Pensions (DWP)



Department of Works and Pensions Overview:

Nearly 28 million people in the U.K. have recently volunteered – and that number is growing all the time. In the past, some people have been put off volunteering because they've been worried that it might affect their benefit. The DWP has produced this booklet to help you understand how to you can become a volunteer while on benefit.



Minister in Charge:

John Hutton MP Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



Policy Publisher Contact

Name:

Agency: Department for Work and Pensions / Job Centre Plus

Address: See you local Job Centre Plus

Email:

Web: www.dwp.gov.uk



Why should volunteers and voluntary organisations be interested?

- This booklet highlights volunteers personal responsibilities regarding their benefits claims and their volunteering activity
- This booklet gives some clarity to the relationship between expenses and benefits
- This Booklet enables voluntary organisations to understand some of the barriers that volunteers may have to overcome to allow them to volunteer
- This booklet

The booklets publication is a welcome policy statement that clarifies the relationship between benefits and volunteers, giving volunteers a greater understanding of the effects of volunteering on a whole range of benefits including social security, housing and other benefits.



The aims of the 'Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits':

- Promote a better understanding between volunteers and Job Centre Plus on what is volunteering (*Improving Communication*)
- Promote Common Approaches to Volunteering for Job Centre Plus (*Improve Service Delivery*)

The booklet underlines the DWP commitment to improving the perception of volunteering as a development opportunity for claimants to Job Centre Plus staff in addition to creating a greater understanding of the responsibilities of claimants.

**Possible implications for the sector and volunteers arising from this booklet:**

- **Communication** – Improvement in the communication of what is volunteering and the end to individual job centre interpretation of policy
- **Roles & Responsibilities** – Clarity on the roles and responsibilities of claimants in relation to benefits and volunteering
- **Process Standardisation** – changes to local service delivery

**Further reading:**

- Non applicable

**Links & Contacts:**

Job Centre Plus: <http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk>

Benefits Enquiry Line for those who are sick, disabled or a carer

☎ 0800 882 200

Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credit

☎ 0845 300 3900

**Copyright:**

WDCVS Synopsis © 2006

'A Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits'

Contact:

ActionCVS Services
WDCVS
Arcadia Business Centre,
Miller Lane,
Clydebank,
Dunbartonshire,
G81 1UJ
☎ 0141 941 0886
✉ policy@wdcvs.com