



Gatwick Diamond Newsletter December 2021

Kickstart Scheme Update

The government is extending when the last Kick-start jobs can start. **Young people can start in a Kickstart job up until Thursday 31 March 2022.**
Applications to the Kickstart Scheme closed Friday 17 December.

Most Kickstart roles are now advertised on Find a Job. This means we can direct our eligible young people to browse Kickstart vacancies, find the things they really want to apply to, and request an introduction from their Work Coach.

Young people just need to search 'Kickstart' within a location and the roles we have currently available on the Provision Service will show on Find a Job. They'll be able to search more specifically, e.g. 'Kickstart Design' or they can filter by sector too. When they find a job they like, they simply click 'Apply Now' and are given instructions to request a referral through their Work Coach.

Household Support Fund

A new £500m Household Support Fund to help vulnerable households as we continue our recovery from the pandemic has been launched. This new scheme is designed to help vulnerable households with the essentials, including food costs and utility bills. In England, the money will be distributed by councils, who know their local areas best and can directly help those who need it most, including, for example, through small grants to meet daily costs. Up to £79m of the fund will be split between the de-volved administrations. The fund started in October and will run over winter.

Sanctuary Scheme

From 1 October 2021 the Sanctuary Scheme was introduced to allow the exemption from the removal of the spare room subsidy. This exemption applies to claimants in the social rented sector whose home has had additional security installed under a Sanctuary Scheme due to domestic violence. Eligible Universal Credit claimants can claim the exemption by contacting their work coach or case manager.

Working Tax Credit (WTC) changes

During the pandemic, WTC customers did not have to tell HMRC about temporary short-term reductions in their working hours as a result of coronavirus. From 25 November 2021 customers will have the usual one-month window if they are not back to working their normal hours.

Security Industry Authority (SIA) Licence Changes

From 1 October 2021 all Door Supervision and Security Guard licence holders will need a first aid qualification and the new top-up training before they renew their licence. Further training and change will be made in April 2022.

HGV Skills Bootcamp now open

Free courses for adults to train to be HGV drivers are now under way across England, the Department for Education has [announced](#).

The Bootcamps will support up to 11,000 adults aged 19 and over to start, resume or progress their career in transport and logistics.

Skills Bootcamps offer free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks, which include a guaranteed job interview with an employer on completion.

The courses are available now in [various locations](#), with the first drivers expected to be on the road from March 2022.

More information about the range of opportunities on offer in the transport and logistics sector is available on the [JobHelp site](#).

Universal Credit changes – animated explainer

December 1st 2021 the changes to the Universal Credit taper rate and Work Allowances came into effect.

Work allowances, the amount a claimant can earn before their Universal Credit is reduced, will increase by £500 per year meaning many families will be able to earn over £500 per month before their benefits are tapered off. Simultaneously, the taper rate, the amount that a person's Universal Credit is reduced by when their earnings are more than their work allowance, will drop from 63% to 55%.

Taken together, the changes mean almost two million families will be better off by £1,000 a year, on average.

To communicate these changes, we have created an animated explainer on what these are, and what the changes mean. The 45 second video can be downloaded and used across all channels – we recommend using the HD 720p to ensure it will upload properly.

To [watch the video](#) you will need to enter the password: monR8w_22

Jobcentre Plus arrangements over the Festive Period

Jobcentre Plus opening hours are different over [Christmas and New Year](#).

To make sure people receive their payments on a day when Jobcentre Plus offices are open, arrangements have been made to [make some payments early](#).

Monthly-paid Universal Credit claimants who have two payments in one assessment period as a result of an early payment do not need to worry. Thanks to changes we made to the rules, they can have the second payment moved to another assessment period. This ensures stability for claimants when receiving their benefit. When two monthly payments are received in one assessment period claimants should report it to their work coach.

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| Friday 24 December | Offices and phone lines are open as usual |
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| Monday 27 December | Offices and phone lines are closed |
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| Tuesday 28 December | Offices and phone lines are closed |
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| Wednesday 29 December | Offices are closed. Phone lines are open for missing or urgent payments only |
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| Thursday 30 December | Offices and phone lines are open as usual |
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| Friday 31 December | Offices and phone lines are open as usual |
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| Monday 3 January 2022 | Offices and phone lines are closed |
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| When your payment is due | When Universal Credit will be paid | When other benefits will be paid (not Universal Credit) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 27 December | Friday 24 December | Friday 24 December |
| Tuesday 28 December | Friday 24 December | Friday 24 December |
| Wednesday 29 December | Wednesday 29 December | Friday 24 December |
| Monday 3 January | Friday 31 December | Friday 31 December |
| Tuesday 4 January | Tuesday 4 January | Tuesday 4 January |

Fit note temporary changes

From Friday 17 December 2021 to 26 January 2022 inclusive, DWP is making temporary changes to support the rollout of COVID-19 booster jabs.

Self-certification for sickness will be extended from seven to 28 days for people accessing Statutory Sick Pay, and there will be no requirement for a fit note to access other benefits.

These requirements will be reinstated from 27 January 2022.

[Find out more](#)

Lastly, Sue and I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to our continued work and support together in the New Year.

Kind Regards

Sue Carey & Marie Roots
Gatwick Diamond Partnership Team