



The Disability Rights UK newsletter co-edited with and for young people

Stay informed with news and information on your journey through education, training and work

Important updates on apprenticeships!

Level 2 apprenticeships maths and English

Great news for apprentices who started their level 2 apprenticeship without L1 maths and English! They no longer need to study for and take L2 English and Maths tests in order to complete their apprenticeship.

L2 apprentices can focus on securing a L1 English and Maths qualification with only those who are truly ready to take the L2 tests attempting them.

P125.1 and P129.1: New rule: To reflect the policy change that level 2 apprentices who do not have level 1 in English and maths must prioritise achieving level 1 in these subjects and are only required to work towards level 2 English and maths where they have time remaining to make meaningful progress, once they have achieved level 1. The requirement for apprentices assessed at level 1 but without a level 1 qualification to take level 2 before achieving level 1 has been removed. These rules will apply irrespective of the apprentice's start date and will include existing learners who started their apprenticeship programme in previous funding years.

For more information please see link to the draft rules: [2223Provider Draft Final.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Changes to Off-The-Job Training

The Government has replaced the 20% off-the-job training in apprenticeships with a new model.

The current rule states that an apprentice must complete off-the-job training for a minimum of 20% of their own working hours. From 1 August, the minimum volume of hours will no longer be linked to the working hours; instead, they will have a consistent figure, regardless of the hours worked by the apprentice.

This will be 6 hours per week meaning those apprentices who work more than 30 hours (which was the base figure used to calculate this) per week can now spend less than 20 per cent of their week doing off-the-job training.

The EFSA also stated that the change must not weaken the current requirement – to provide the right level of training to every apprentice. The volume of training that is delivered must be guided by the initial assessment of the apprentice and this may mean that an apprentice trains for more than 6 hours per week.

For more information go to: **[Education and Skills Funding Agency \(ESFA\) Apprenticeship funding rules: August 2022 to July 2023](#)**

New funding to help Disabled people into work

The Department of Work & Pensions has announced new grant funding to help over 2,000 adults with learning disabilities and autism move into work.

The Local Supported Employment (LSE) initiative is providing grant funding to 24 local authorities in England and Wales. Each local authority area will support between 60 and 140 adults with learning disabilities, autism or both to move into competitive employment and provide the help they need to maintain that employment.

For more information: **[Government announces limited local employment support funding | Disability Rights UK](#)**

Supported Internships Consortium

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced the Internships Work consortium and the British Association of Supported Employment (BASE) as the chosen delivery partners for an £18 million investment in the Supported Internships programme.

The new Internships Work programme will deliver on a commitment set out in the **[SEND and AP green paper](#)**, offering more young people who have additional needs (an Education, Health and Care Plan) the skills to secure and sustain paid employment.

The Internships Work programme includes the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), BASE, and DFN Project SEARCH. It will work closely with local authorities to double the number of supported internships by 2025, engaging with employers and young people to level up the quality of Supported Internships across the programme.

In addition to their involvement in Internships Work, BASE will offer personalised support to young people in acquiring skills and independence by training over 700 new job coaches by 2025. You can read more about **[Internships Work](#)** and **[BASE](#)** by visiting their websites.

Get the Jump

Get the Jump is a campaign aimed at 14–19-year-olds which launched back in January this year to make young people aware of all of their post-16 and 18 choices. It brings together, for the first time ever, all their options into one content hub which is hosted on the [National Careers Service](#) website.

Disabled people urged to check on eligibility for social tariffs on broadband

Broadband bills could be cut for millions of low-income households under Government plans to encourage 'social tariffs'.

The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) has launched a new scheme aimed at providing broadband access at a 'social tariff' to people who receive certain benefits.

As different broadband providers offer different social tariffs, the DWP says benefit claimants should visit [Ofcom's website](#) to see the options they might be eligible for.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2022/august/disabled-people-urged-check-eligibility-social-tariffs-broadband>



CASTING CALL!

Are you currently doing a T Level or an Apprenticeship?

Future Studios and the Department for Education are casting young people for a Snapchat series.

Interested in being featured?
Contact Chris: chris.aristidou@futurenet.com

Your stories

Get Ahead shares the unique talents and stories of young people who are doing apprenticeships, traineeships, supported internships, work experience or have done something special they want to share.

You too can get involved! Send your story to Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Charley



Hello, my name is Charley. In April 2021, I started to attend a work experience placement at an independent builder's merchant called 'SMART Building supplies' in Torquay, Devon.

I have really enjoyed working here, the staff are always very kind and friendly but they are also really supportive and do all that they can to help me.

There are lots of different tasks that I have been able to try when at work, but my main role is to organise the shop and make sure it looks clean, presentable and well stocked. I have designed new product stands and I do things such as general cleaning.

There have been times where I have had personal challenges at work, but these challenges help me to grow and improve.

One example of a challenge that I have faced was when standing behind the till area a customer approached me to ask for a specific type of wood. I had no idea what the customer was talking about,

and the customer seemed to be in a rush, so I wasn't sure how to respond. My manager luckily noticed I was finding this hard, so she came over and helped the customer instead.

When it comes to my future aspirations, I would like to secure employment at my current placement or somewhere similar. My current placement has been great, and I really look forward to continuing work experience with them.

I have been attending Oakwood Specialist College for the past 3 years and Oakwood have been amazing at supporting me with finding a work placement that suits me and also helping me to develop any skills that I need. I am now going into my fourth and final year at Oakwood and I am excited to see where the future takes me.

Katie

Hi, my name is Katie and I am a student at Oakwood Specialist College. I am going into my third year at Oakwood now and the college have been brilliant at supporting me with careers.

I have attended a few different work experience placements whilst being at Oakwood and this has helped me decide on what I really want to do. I am now set on working in hospitality in the future and recently I have worked in a café (No Limits) and restaurant (The Brunswick).

The tasks that I have enjoyed the most has been preparing food in the kitchens and serving customers. I have found talking to unfamiliar people challenging at times but the longer I was there, the more confident I have been with this.

Sky-Elouise

I work within the Research and Development at HepcoMotion, an engineering firm that manufactures products that are used in factories in the UK, Europe and around the world.

I am currently training and learning lots of new skills. I partake in technical drawing updates and amendments, along with learning how to render, model and animate.

I am currently doing a Level 2 apprenticeship on an Engineering Technical Support Pathway. I will be moving onto a Level 3 Pathway soon.

I chose to do an apprenticeship, based on the “earn whilst you learn” factor. It eliminated the need to take on an extra job alongside my studies at college and meant I could avoid having a large amount of student debt at a young age, which I would have had if I had gone to university.

I have benefitted in many ways through my apprenticeship. Not only have my technical and practical skills advanced, but I have also advanced my soft skills.

I am more confident, more organised and have the ability to approach things in a more work catered manner.

I also moved out at 17 to fulfil my role as an apprentice at HepcoMotion, which has enabled me to be far more independent than I was before.



I have learnt many skills through my time as an apprentice:

- How to organise my workload
- How to speak to an audience
- How to develop good working relationships
- How to manage money
- Technical skills, e.g. in IT and design software
- People skills
- How to project manage

My employer (HepcoMotion,) has provided me with enlarged display screens to cater for my visual impairment, (Nystagmus) and moved me to an office-based role, rather than a factory position as I found the loud noises trigger my anxiety.

I think an apprenticeship would be beneficial to an individual with a disability as it enables you to cater your career path to your needs. By working with your employer, you can set out adjustments to your working environment, and it makes the process of learning much, much easier. I have found these adjustments more challenging in educational sectors such as college.

Maurice Porter, Head of Learning, Development & Apprenticeships, HepcoMotion says:

“We are very mindful of Sky-Elouise’s disability and work to support her and her needs. For example, Sky-Elouise found working in the factory quite challenging as the loud noises triggered her anxiety, so we moved her to an office-based role in our research and development department where she’s thriving. We also provided Sky-Elouise with 2 x large computer monitors to make it more comfortable for her to work with her visual impairment. Sky-Elouise has such enthusiasm and a determination to succeed, seizing every opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills.”

For more information about Sky-Elouise’s apprenticeship, go to: **[HepcoMotion Apprentice Raises Awareness of Disabilities and Apprenticeships \(exe-coll.ac.uk\)](http://HepcoMotionApprenticeRaisesAwarenessofDisabilitiesandApprenticeships(exe-coll.ac.uk))**

James’ Film Club

When I was 15 years old, my dream was to be a filmmaker, but then I had personal problems in my life which has meant, I haven't been able - as yet - to pursue filmmaking as a living.

The reason I wanted to be a filmmaker is because when I was younger I would always think of things to improve on when I watched a film, such as, in one version of Action Man, there was a silver robot that was harder to kill than the other robots, so I wondered why Dr X didn't use the silver robots as foot soldiers and get them to kill Action Man and his team?!

Back in 2020, (the year humanity did nothing), I was unemployed and couldn't find any work, during the Covid pandemic. One day my mother and I were having lunch and she told me about Ciaran's Film Club that she'd heard about from **Community Catalysts**.

She suggested I attend and find out more, but I was apprehensive, because of my personal problems, but I decided to try it, just to see what it was like!

There were actually two film clubs that I tried.

The first was Ewen's Film Club and we talked about Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace. I hadn't seen the film for ages, but I still remember the whole film, like it was yesterday, so I really enjoyed the session!



Then I tried Ciaran's Film Club. He and Pete, who supports the Club, explained to me how it works and how I could set up my own film club.

I had a few conversations with Pete and his colleagues from **MacIntyre** and decided I wanted to try to set up my own Film Club.

I had to wait for a Community Connector to become available in my area, but finally in May this year, we launched James' Film Club. It's a bit like a Book Club. We meet once a month online and chat about a film that we've watched. Then we decide on the film that we will all watch before meeting again next month.

So far, we've watched the Italian Job (both the 1969 and 2003 versions) and Iron Man.

I can't wait for the September meeting as we're going to be discussing Ready Player One. It doesn't matter if people haven't had a chance to watch the film, as after we've discussed it, we then chat about all sorts of things related to film.

It's great fun and I really hope to grow the group and have more people joining. It's free and it doesn't matter where you live as it's currently online.

In time, we might have some face-to-face sessions, but online seems to be working just fine for now.

It's not quite my dream job, but it's certainly a fun hobby and it's great to be setting something up based on films, which I love and know lots about. One day it might lead to a job in the film industry. Since starting his film club, Ciaran has landed a job at his local cinema, as he had learnt how to use cinema equipment at his face-to-face sessions.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7pm for one hour on Zoom. Please do get in touch with MacIntyre (joe.bavington@macintyrecharity.org), if you'd like to come along to a session. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome and we'd love to see you. All you need is a love of film and a willingness to make some friends.

Free accredited courses

Thanks to government funding, we can offer you or your team a free nationally accredited distance learning course.



These courses are great for personal development, confidence, and a great way to improve your CPD in the comfort of your own home or workplace.

The courses we offer take around 30 hours in total to complete and you will be awarded a nationally recognised certificate from TQUK, CACHE, or NCFE at the end of the course.

You will also have online or over the phone tutor support throughout your learning journey.

To be eligible, learners just need to be:

- Over 19 as of the 31st of August 2021
- Living in England
- Not on an Apprenticeship

We now offer a total of 61 courses **[click here for a full list](#)**. The Level 2 courses are available nationally.

We can also offer three Level 3 courses for the following areas, North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire & Humberside, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, West Midlands, East Midlands Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire.

If this is of interest or you would like further information, then please call a member of our team on 01226 958 888.

Or you can register your interest by clicking here **<https://www.wefindanylearner.com/book-online/>**

The Education Hub

The Education Hub is a site for parents, pupils, education professionals and the media that captures all you need to know about the education system. You'll find accessible, straightforward information on popular topics, Q&As, interviews, case studies, and more.

Members of the public can call our general enquiries line on 0370 000 2288.

[Simplifying and improving apprenticeships – what this means for you - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)





A traineeship in 'Music Promotions' is the perfect opportunity for unemployed 19–24-year-olds to gain skills and to start their career in the Music Industry.

This bespoke training package will include the opportunity to: Promote the assets of AYM MEDIA GROUP, working with artists, their music and industry via online platforms, radio, TV, film, publications and club.

English and maths support and work preparation training is also included.

To apply or for more details contact: [**traineeships@aymmediagroup.net**](mailto:traineeships@aymmediagroup.net)

Tel. 020 7207 4117

[**www.aymmediagroup.net**](http://www.aymmediagroup.net)

New report on Disabled people's experiences of remote and hybrid work

The Work Foundation, has recently launched a report, **The changing workplace: enabling disability inclusive hybrid working**, following an independent research project funded by City Bridge Trust. Disability Rights UK contributed to the research project.

Through a survey of 406 Disabled people, interviews with 20 Disabled workers, and two roundtables with employers and other stakeholders, they have developed new evidence about Disabled workers' experiences of remote and hybrid work. The majority of Disabled workers who participated in the research said they value the opportunity to decide where they work, which has positive impacts for them and their organisation. The report also draws attention to the challenges some Disabled workers have experienced and makes recommendations for employers and to the Government for policy changes.

Anna Denham, Bridge to Work evaluation Programme Manager at Disability Rights UK commented:

"This important and very timely piece of research has highlighted the benefits of being able to work flexibly and with autonomy. 85% of Disabled workers surveyed reported they felt more productive when working from home. However, remote working isn't for everyone, and the research findings are very clear – choice and control over the working environment, enables people to better manage health conditions, meaning they feel healthier and more productive, which ultimately benefits everyone."

DR UK co-producing Consumer Harms funding bid

The Fundraising Manager for DR UK wants to talk to Disabled people about a new funding application to Which? (the consumer protection organisation). The application is for a project entitled 'Improve Understanding of Consumer Harm'. It is particularly focused on those harms experienced by Disabled people.

Help DR UK co-produce the Consumer Harms funding bid.

Department of Work and Pensions Health Adjustment Passport (HAP)

The DWP has launched a new Health Adjustment Passport (HAP) to help more Disabled people and people with health conditions into work.

The aim of the HAP is to help identify what support and adjustments individuals may need in the workplace or when moving into work.

The HAP is owned by the individual. They decide how they want to use it. Completion is voluntary and can be done with support from a work coach if appropriate.

The DWP says that: The Health Adjustment Passport can be used if you have a disability or health condition that makes it harder for you to move into work or stay in a job.

You can use it to:

- support you to identify what support and changes (known as [reasonable adjustments](#)) you may need when you are in work or moving into work
- apply for support from [Access to Work](#). This could include funding for specialist equipment to support you to do your job, support getting to and from work or support when you are in work, such as job coaching
- help you talk to employers about adjustments and in-work support that you may need

A job could also include self-employment, an apprenticeship, work experience or a supported internship.

If you would like braille, British Sign Language, email, a hearing loop, translations, large print, audio or something else please call 0800 169 0310 or textphone 0800 169 0314 and tell us which you need. Calls to 0800 numbers are free from landlines and mobiles.

For more information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-adjustment-passport>

Access to Work guide- Easy Read

An [Easy Read Access to Work](#) guide is available online





The Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation: Access and Education Programme

The Access and Education Programme is introducing a range of events and resources to support families and individuals with learning difficulties and/or autism to engage with the Museum's spaces and collections

Baluji Shrivastav OBE – relaxed performance with the sitar

Monday 17 October from 6.00-8.00pm

British Museum

We invite you, your family and friends to enjoy this relaxed event in a quiet, less crowded out-of-hours setting.

Multi-instrumentalist Baluji Shrivastav OBE is one of the world's leading composers and sitar players. He has performed and recorded with some of the greatest tabla accompanists and has worked with artists including Stevie Wonder and Shakira. In this event, he'll be performing a selection of pieces in a relaxed setting.

From 18.00–19.00 you'll be to visit Room 33: China and South Asia (The Joseph Hotung Gallery) in a quieter, less crowded setting. There'll then be a relaxed performance by Shrivastav from 19.00–19.45.

The event is free but tickets need to be booked in advance:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/events/baluji-shrivastav-obe-relaxed-performance-sitar>

Our Helplines

Helpline for students, apprentices and trainees

Disability Rights UK runs a **Disabled Students Helpline** which offers information and advice to disabled students, apprentices and trainees by phone and email on a range of topics including:

- applying to college, university and apprenticeships
- telling people about your disability
- financial assistance
- adjustments for disabled students and apprentices
- rights in post -16 education and training under the Equality Act 2010
- how to resolve any disagreements.

The helpline supports disabled students, apprentices, parents and carers and professionals supporting disabled students aged over 16 in England.

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org

In addition to the helpline, Disability Rights UK also produces a range of free **education factsheets and guides** for disabled students, trainees and apprentices on post 16 education and training.

Disability Rights UK's **Into Apprenticeships 2022 guide** deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and what support is available in the workplace.

There are several inspiring stories written by disabled apprentices about their own experiences and the challenges they have faced. The guide also contains a useful resources section listing further websites, publications and organisations which can help.

Personal Budgets Helpline

Telephone: 0330 995 0404

Opening hours: 9.30am-1.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org

Welfare Rights Helpline for Member Organisations

Telephone: 0203 687 0779

Opening hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

ken.butler@disabilityrightsuk.org

Contact Us



 Email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

 Twitter: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://twitter.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Instagram: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://www.instagram.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Videos: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 [Get Ahead webpage](https://www.getahead.org.uk)

 [DR UK website](https://www.dr-uk.org)

We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

For a text-only or large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [Get Ahead webpage](https://www.getahead.org.uk)

To receive notifications about the Get Ahead publications please sign up [here](#)

Disability Rights UK

We are Disabled people leading change, and the voice of young Disabled people has to be central to that change.

Disability Rights Handbook 2022-23

Pre-order your copy today for
delivery in May 2022!

Provides in-depth,
comprehensive guidance on the
benefits system, explains how
social care operates around the
UK and includes information
about other services and
resources for disabled people.

DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK

Edition 47
April 2022 - April 2023

A guide to benefits and services
for all disabled people, their families,
carers and advisers



DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK UPDATER 2022-2023

- Disability Rights Handbook updates
- Significant recent case law

