



**Keep informed on your journey through education, training and work**

### **New Apprenticeship Funding rule changes**

The government plans to fully fund apprenticeships for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), aiming to make these valuable opportunities more accessible for apprentices up to the age of 21.

The Draft apprenticeship funding rules for 2024/25 reveal a series of proposed changes. You can download the new funding rules from:

**[Apprenticeship Funding Rules 2025-2025 Draft.pdf](#)**

### **Additional Learning Support funding is set for reform and functional skills requirements for SEND apprentices will be relaxed next year**

The **FE Week** reports:

From the next academic year, the government will move reviews for additional learning support from monthly to every three months.

Officials will also allow an assessment for learning support to happen at any time during the apprenticeship instead of just at the start.

Providers can claim learning support funding to make “reasonable adjustments”, such as specialist equipment and extra staff, to support an apprentice who has learning difficulties or disabilities so that they can complete their apprenticeship.

It is a fixed amount of £150 per month which can only be claimed by the provider for each month where reasonable adjustments are delivered, evidenced and result in a monetary cost.

ALS funding claims can, however, be a difficult area for providers which has led to several cases of large clawback.

The DfE said its 2024/25 reforms will “reduce bureaucracy associated with claiming learning support”.

Importantly, the ALS changes will apply to existing apprentices not just new starters.

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## **SEND pilot flexibilities rolled out**

The government will allow all providers to use a flexibility that allows apprentices with learning difficulties but without a pre-existing education health and care plan (EHCP) or statement of learning difficulties assessment (LDA) to work towards a lower level of functional skills.

Under current rules, apprentices must achieve level 1 English and maths functional skills qualifications if they're on a level 2 apprenticeship and did not pass the qualifications at GCSE. And if a similar learner is on a level 3 or higher apprenticeship, they must achieve functional skills at level 2.

Those with an EHCP or LDA can, however, work towards and pass the lower level of functional skills English and maths at entry level 3.

Pilot providers **previously told FE Week** how this “game-changing” reform was allowing hundreds of people who found themselves blocked from apprenticeship opportunities to enrol on programmes thanks to the exemption.

The DfE said today that following this “positive” pilot, “we are extending English and maths flexibilities for apprentices who have learning difficulties or disabilities but no Education, Health and Care Plan, to study a more suitable level of English and maths”.

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## **The Buckland Review of Autism Employment: Report and recommendations**

Landmark review calls on employers to boost support for autistic people. A bold new government-backed review has set out a vision for workplace culture changes to support autistic people to start and stay in work.

**The Buckland Review of Autism Employment: Report and recommendations - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

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## **Access to Work applications go digital**

Government grants to help make work life easier for disabled people can now be applied for online, as the Access to Work scheme goes digital.

The DWP funding is now available through the **GOV.UK** website and helped 50,000 make workplace adjustments last year.

To be eligible for the Access to Work scheme, individuals must be employed, self-employed, about to start work, participating in a supported internship/traineeship, taking part in work experience/work trial or require communication support at interview.

Customers are still able to make claims for Access to Work via phone and post.

**[Read the press release](#)**

# CONFIDENT FUTURES SKILLS SHOW



## Find your future career...

Looking for career inspiration or a career change? Meet with more than 50 employers at the Confident Futures Skills Show, Buckinghamshire's most exciting skills and careers event for people of all ages who have barriers to employment.

### 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Time: **3:30pm - 5:30pm**

Price: **Free**

Location: **Stoke Mandeville Stadium  
Guttmann Road  
Aylesbury, HP21 9PP**

[Learn more here](#)

[buckskillshub.org](http://buckskillshub.org)

## Why attend?

- Meet and be inspired by employers looking to find future talent.
- Find out what it's like to work in a variety of key industry sectors.
- Speak with Universities, Colleges, and Apprenticeship providers who can help to identify your best next steps.
- Be motivated by people who work for inclusive businesses and gain top tips on applying for jobs!



## Book here

# New Disability Action Plan to make UK most accessible place in the world



The Government has launched its new Disability Action Plan – 32 steps it is taking to make the UK the most accessible place in the world for disabled people to live, work and thrive. New Disability Action Plan to make UK most accessible place in the world - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

**New Disability Action Plan to make UK most accessible place in the world - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

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## Flagship youth employment programme hits one million milestone

New figures show DWP's flagship jobs support programme for young people has now been taken up over a million times, as the Government continues its drive to get people working. New figures reveal 16-24-year-olds have taken up DWP's Youth Offer over a million times.

An extra 30,000 economically inactive young people were given access to the intensive job support thanks to its expansion last year.

Milestone achieved as youth unemployment has almost halved since 2010 and tax cuts to make work pay put £900 back into the average earner's pocket and grow the economy.

**Flagship youth employment programme hits one million milestone - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

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## Disability Rights UK (DR UK) is excited to recruit an Engagement Officer

The purpose of the role is to support the Disability Rights UK (DR UK) Policy & Information Team to reach more young Disabled people through digital engagement - providing education on rights and post-16 options, and empowering young people to campaign with us.

In addition to education and empowerment, our engagement aims to platform the voices of young Disabled people, enabling them to share their views and experiences to influence policy change.

To apply, please send your current CV and a cover letter of no more than one thousand words outlining your suitability for the role, using the person specification as a guide, to [recruitment@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:recruitment@disabilityrightsuk.org). We particularly welcome applicants from a BAME background. **The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 9.00am on Monday 10th June 2024.** Interviews will be held remotely, using Microsoft Teams or similar, on Monday 17th June 2024. Should you wish to apply using another format or require reasonable adjustments to participate in the application process, please contact us at [recruitment@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:recruitment@disabilityrightsuk.org) or 0330 995 0400.

Get the job description and person specification at:

**Opportunity engagement officer young Disabled people**

## Wheelchair Alliance receives grant to fund research into measures needed to improve access to wheelchairs



VITAL research which will identify how wheelchair services across England can be improved has been boosted thanks to a grant from **The Motability Foundation**.

Each year, The Motability Foundation awards grants to charities and other organisations to allow them to develop and expand on existing research which develops transport accessibility solutions.

The **Wheelchair Alliance**, which was launched in 2015 to champion the needs of wheelchair users, has been awarded a grant to enable it to look more closely at how barriers to accessing wheelchairs can be overcome, and the measures which are needed to improve services. Working in collaboration with **Frontier Economics** and **Revealing Reality**, The Wheelchair Alliance will publish its third report which will provide solutions to the issues raised in its 2022 findings, **An Economic Assessment of Wheel Provision in England** and its latest report **The Value of a Wheelchair**.

Nick Goldup, Chief Operating Officer at The Wheelchair Alliance said: “Across England wheelchair users still face a postcode lottery when it comes to accessing the right wheelchair at the right time, something which must change.

“Working alongside wheelchair users this third report will provide the ‘how’ and the measures which are needed to improve access to wheelchair services and as a result, access to transport.

“We are delighted to have been awarded this latest grant and are grateful to The Motability Foundation for its continued support.”

Rachael Badger, Director of Performance and Innovation at The Motability Foundation said: “We are really excited to be funding the Wheelchair Alliance to carry out this important research into how barriers to accessing wheelchairs can be overcome, building on their two previous reports which we also supported. User research, led by organisations with a deep understanding of the issues and barriers, is a vital route to finding new solutions for accessible travel.”

Please direct any press enquiries to Emma Speirs on 01536 682800 or email **[emma.speirs@ballyhoo-pr.co.uk](mailto:emma.speirs@ballyhoo-pr.co.uk)**



Image by storyset on  
**Freepik**

## Your stories

Get Ahead shares the unique talents and stories of Disabled 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](mailto:Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

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### Jordan

“It’s funny how cyclical our career journeys can be. As my last week at the BBC begins, and I make preparations for my next “Career Journey” I received the a notification from LinkedIn that it’s my two year anniversary at the BBC.

I have had the most incredible time at the BBC, from the Finance Disability Internship, to the BBC Apprenticeship and the BBC National Orchestra Of Wales to BBC Ability network and my work in Diversity & Inclusion: with all the experiences in-between BBC Bitesize Tour, interviewing the Director-General Tim Davie, #ThisUsMyBBC video and so much more.)

I was told early on, the more you capitalise on opportunities during your apprenticeship, the more you will get out of your experience, and I am definitely one for capitalising on opportunity (even if I did end up stretched six different ways most of the time.)

But considering where I was at the end of 2021, I am so changed from my time, in skills, in confidence and most importantly, in self-knowledge.

I have said throughout that I am not your traditional image of an apprentice. Quite a bit older, with a Masters Degree and a background in media freelancing, you might ask what I’d gain from this.

But as a Disabled Worker who had never fully accepted their need for reasonable adjustments, this was just as much about re-training myself to embrace all the resources to make my working abilities as effective as possible, whilst being confident to present as a disabled person in the media.

I have been saying to my colleagues in the last few weeks that this not the end of the book in my relationship with BBC Wales, but simply the end of a chapter, and that whether it is months or years, I am going to be back. But for the moment this is goodbye to two wonderful years.”



## Water

Always hopeful,  
I try,  
but do not fit  
into a world  
that does not understand me.  
I forever ask who has the patience to do this?

I find my solace  
in ever constant, ever dependable, hope-giving  
water.

Engulfed in its mesmerizing ripples  
of glorious, safe compassion,  
I hear my name echoing.

Water beckons me to a  
pure, panic-free place  
of enduring acceptance.  
I become fearless  
in my own world.  
It kindly floods me with courage  
and the freedom I yearn.

It does not judge, it does not stare, it does not question.

I am gratefully pleased to liken myself  
to the clear drops of  
uncomplicated, kindly, unassuming water,

I yearn to be in this accepted, malleable world  
forever.

**Murray Bruce, May 2024**







Are you doing an apprenticeship or recently finished your apprenticeship, then join us and become part of our leadership group.

**The Disabled Apprentice Network** (DAN) brings together Disabled apprentices and those who have finished their apprenticeship.

The Network is a lively and friendly forum for Disabled apprentices, to share their experiences and to offer views and proposals on what could improve apprenticeships for Disabled people.

Watch DAN members talk about their apprenticeships on the **DAN video** and on **Tik Tok @DisRightsUK**

To join the group contact: **[rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org)**

## **Association of Apprentices (AoA)**

The Disabled Apprentice Network has a platform on the **Association of Apprentices** website. To join, register with AoA and go to AoA Connect or use this **Link to DAN**

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## **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](mailto:students@disabilityrightsuk.org)**

## **Information on student finance and funding from DR UK**

Listen to our Education Officer Rundip Thind speak about student finance and funding on Tik Tok **@DisRightsUK** and our podcast.

**You can listen to the podcast to find out more about our work on this website.**

we've updated our Into Apprenticeships resource for Disabled people. It deals with Qs such as finding an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and workplace support available.

**<https://disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships>**

# Contact Us



Email: [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)



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



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



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Tik Tok: [@DisRightsUK](https://www.tiktok.com/@DisRightsUK)

Get Ahead



[Get Ahead webpage](#)

[DR UK website](#)

## We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

[Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

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

email: [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [Get Ahead webpage](#)

To join the Get Ahead mailing list, go to the [Get Ahead webpage](#)

## 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

Edition 49  
April 2024 - April 2025

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



### DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK UPDATER 2024-2025

- Disability Rights Handbook updates
- Significant recent case law



## Disability Rights Handbook

Comprehensive, in-depth information and invaluable guidance on the benefits system and social care services. Full of tools and tactics to help you make a successful claim.

Add Handbook Updater to your order and we'll keep you up to date all year.

**Order your new edition now**

[shop.disabilityrightsuk.org](https://shop.disabilityrightsuk.org)