

Intensive Activity Programme

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Background

The Intensive Activity Programme (IAP) is part of the Youth Obligation Support Programme (YOSP). IAP is a package of intensive support designed to accelerate the claimant's entry or return to work by helping them to become effective, full-time job seekers from the earliest point in their claim.

Once referred at the first commitments meeting, agreed activities are added to the claimant commitment, completion of the IAP is mandatory for all YOSP participants.

The IAP includes:

- a set of activities aimed at helping claimants move closer to work, for example - improving skills for job applications and job search
- 2 DWP facilitated group workshops providing peer support and motivation, discussing key issues
- 2 one to one post-workshop coaching sessions to discuss what activities the claimant will undertake following the workshop

Intensive Activity Programme eligibility

IAP is for all YOSP claimants in the Intensive Work Search regime. IAP is a work preparation requirement. Therefore, unless claimants have had work preparation requirements 'switched-off' they should be expected to participate.

What is expected of claimants?

Claimants must be informed of their personal responsibility for participating in the IAP to help them move towards getting a job, an apprenticeship or training.

Claimants are given a **Getting Started Leaflet** with activities to complete before attending the first IAP group workshop.

They must be informed that a sanction may be applied if they fail for no good reason to undertake the mandatory IAP activities as part of YOSP.

Intensive Activity Programme group workshops

DWP staff must deliver the workshops. Support from partner organisations and guest speakers to provide more localised content is encouraged but these organisations should not be paid to take part.

It is recommended that IAP group sessions be run for 6 or more participants to facilitate peer to peer discussion and learning.

Where local conditions mean it is not possible to run group sessions of 6 or more participants, local flexibility can be applied. Such flexibilities might include workshops:

- being brigaded across jobcentres based on the size and location of sites
- delivered in a one to one meeting for claimants if required, or alternative channels and locations can be used if required for example Skype

The number of workshops delivered is a jobcentre decision based on location and caseload volumes. It is recognised that it may not be possible to deliver the IAP workshops within the first 3 weeks, see Youth Obligation Support Programme, Weeks 1 to 3.

Progress towards work search activities and work preparation is monitored regularly through ongoing Work Search reviews. The activities may be mandatory or voluntary as specified in the claimant commitment. It is the responsibility of the claimant to complete them within the time specified and to a sufficient level, with support where required.

Follow-up sessions

Two to three days after completion of each workshop, the claimant will discuss the workshops and their agreed activities with their work coach in order to provide feedback on their experience.

The follow-up session will also provide an opportunity for the work coach to provide additional coaching and agree and record the activities in their claimant commitment.

If the claimant fails to undertake or refuses to undertake any IAP workshop activities for no good reason a sanction may apply before they start IAP and claimants must be made aware of this.

Failure to attend the workshops

If the claimant fails to attend either of the workshops for no good reason a sanction may apply.

Completing the Intensive Activity Programme

Once the claimant has been referred to and completed the IAP, they will continue on the YOSP journey.

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