

To: **Secretary of State**
Minister for Employment

From: Marcia King, Kickstart Policy

SCS Clearance: Katie Farrington, Director of Universal Credit
and Employment Policy

Date: 19 February 2021



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Kickstart Scheme: Access for young people on legacy benefits and Personal Independence Payment claimants

Summary

You have asked for advice on expanding the eligibility of the Kickstart Scheme to claimants on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). This submission also provides advice on access to the Kickstart Scheme for claimants in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Personal Independence Payment.

The Minister for Disabled People would also like to consider what more can be done to ensure Plan for Jobs is inclusive for those with disabilities and health conditions, including within Kickstart.

Further advice will follow on options for Kickstart eligibility **beyond December 2021** (current date for last job starts), including how any extension might cover those with health conditions or disabilities.

Timing

Routine

Recommendations

That we continue to focus Kickstart on the current target group of young people aged 16-24 on Universal Credit (UC) – especially as the link between Kickstart and UC is perceived as a potential incentive to encourage legacy claimants to transfer to Universal Credit.

The option to expand to further groups of claimants with disabilities and health conditions is considered for a potential further phase of Kickstart to run beyond the life of the current Scheme.