

INVOLVE

Research Design Services Involvement Forum

Involving people who are in receipt of benefits:

- easing benefit barriers -

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Benefit changes underway

2013 – 2014

Universal Credit pilots for new claims

- people who have become unemployed

2014 – 2017

People who are in receipt of:

- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit

are gradually

transferred to Universal Credit

Different rules for paid involvement or work

People who are in receipt of:

- **Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Incapacity Benefit**
- **Income Support for incapacity**

have limits on earnings per week &
must get permission for any paid work

Exceed the limit or do not get
permission? Benefits will be stopped

You can help:

ask people how much they can accept,
give people time to get permission

People who are in receipt of:

- **Universal Credit**

do not have to get permission to do paid
work

But

must advise Jobcentre monthly of
earnings

Payment you want to offer is too high?

Some people are only allowed to earn £5 or £20 a week! May not be able to agree to involvement because of limit

Person must ask Jobcentre Plus in advance if they will treat payments as averaged.

Let people know:

Jobcentre Plus may agree to treat a payment as averaged, if there are two or more involvement events over a cycle of involvement or over a four or five week period

They will need time to do this.

The Involvement Helpline run by Milton Keynes CAB can help.

More than the weekly limit on payments can be paid if averaging applies.

People on incapacity based benefits worry about triggering a review of entitlement

Jobcentre Plus staff have been advised that people are recruited for involvement in research because of their experience of using health and social care services NOT because they can work

You can help:

provide letter for people on your headed paper to give to Jobcentre Plus

Your letter explains that this is 'service user involvement' and why people are recruited

Different rules for reimbursed expenses

People who are in receipt of:

- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance

who are paid for involvement in research by a University will have reimbursed expenses treated as earnings

If expenses are high and person can only earn £20 a week their benefit may be stopped or reduced

People who are paid for involvement in research by an NHS Trust will have reimbursed expenses ignored

People who are in receipt of:
Universal Credit

who do paid involvement will have reimbursed expenses ignored

You can help: expenses that are 'covered' are ignored

Universities that pay people for involvement in research can cover expenses (not reimburse the amount in cash) :

- Provision of travel tickets are ignored.
- Provision of transport is ignored.
- Payment made to replacement carer or child carer that is made directly to them will be ignored.
- Subsistence and overnight accommodation costs that are paid for directly are ignored.

Once-off involvement is ignored by Jobcentre Plus

Involvement in research for the first time with an organisation, that leads to a gift of money is ignored by Jobcentre Plus.

The involvement cannot be for longer than one day.

Your organisation should provide a letter confirming that this is a gift of money as a thank you for their involvement in research.