

Community Work Placements are wrong

You're not alone. Know your rights, name and shame and help end all workfare!

We all know Community Work Placements aren't about helping people find work. Instead forced unpaid work and supervised job search treat the unemployed like criminals. Six months of workfare is more than twice the maximum community service sentence!

CWP forces claimants to work for 34 hours a week – most of the time doing pointless and menial tasks. And all for £72 a week – that's about £2 an hour. CWP is forced labour.

Placements with no relationship to our experience or what we want, bullying and mistreatment, and wasting our time on pointless placements - all under threat of benefit sanctions - are totally wrong.

But together we can fight them. Know your rights, name and shame placement hosts and get involved to help end all workfare!



Workfare providers breaking the rules?

Workfare providers make money out of making people's lives a misery. CWP shouldn't exist in the first place, but are they even following the rules?

DWP guidelines state that:

1. Placements must be of clear and demonstrable benefit to the community.
2. Placements must give work experience and develop skills.
3. Support for claimants should include appropriate help and workplace training.
3. Work placements must be supervised with tasks similar to those in a normal working environment.
4. No more than 25% of the placements they arrange should be in charity shops.
5. Placements must not displace existing jobs.
6. Claimants must start placement within 20 working days of Jobcentre Plus (JCP) referral.
7. The time span of a claimant's CWP scheme is 30 calendar weeks.

Turn over for info on your rights and how we're fighting back. →

Know your rights

The government doesn't publish info for claimants on our rights, but the DWP Provider Guidance says:

1. Claimants must be given adequate opportunity to make representations/object to a mandated activity, eg placement. Representations must be properly considered, recorded and reasons given if the claimant must undertake the activity.
2. Restrictions on type of work claimant is seeking must be taken into account when sourcing placements, eg religious beliefs, health conditions. You could challenge a placement in a religious charity if it is not your belief.
3. Acceptable absences include job interviews, medical appointments and domestic emergencies and count towards the 30-hour week.
4. Placements should be appropriate to claimant's desired employment sector and occupation type.
5. Attendance and participation restrictions agreed with JCP, e.g. for childcare, must be honoured.
6. Claimants must not be worse off for taking part in CWP. The provider should pay travel and childcare expenses for meetings, job search and placements.
7. Placements must be within 90 minutes' travel time of claimant's home.
8. Part-time work and education count towards 30-hour week placement.



We're taking on workfare and having an impact

Since CWP launched, we've used public pressure to get placement hosts to pull out - Traid, Cancer Research UK and Invicta to name just a few!

A week after George Osborne attempted to promote CWP with a visit to placement host Byteback IT, we convinced them to pull out too.

The government is worried that workfare schemes like CWP will "collapse" if the public finds out the organisations willing to profit from forced unpaid work.

Do your bit to make it happen: name and shame the organisations taking CWP placements at boycottworkfare.org

Get support and get involved

Boycott Workfare is a UK-wide campaign to end forced unpaid work for people who receive welfare. We are a grassroots campaign, formed in 2010 by people with experience of workfare and those concerned about its impact. We expose and take action against companies and organisations profiting from workfare; encourage organisations to pledge to boycott it; and actively inform people of their rights.

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