



progress2work

- helping you overcome barriers to work

progress2work is an initiative to assist people who have a history of drug/alcohol misuse or are ex-offenders/ex-prisoners or are homeless, to move into employment.

How it works

The service takes the form of one-to-one support provided by Support Workers who will work with you to overcome barriers to employment such as, disclosure of criminal convictions, addiction or accommodation issues and at the same time, assist you to undertake education, training and ultimately help you to find a job.

Who can apply?

The progress2work service will operate throughout Northern Ireland and is specifically for anyone who is not in employment and who has major barriers in finding work as a result of:

- a previous history of drug/alcohol misuse; and/or
- being homeless; and/or
- being ex-offenders/ex-prisoner.

The only other requirement is that you show motivation and a desire to move into work.

How do I apply?

You can get more information on progress2work by contacting an Adviser in your local Jobs & Benefits office or JobCentre or you can contact a Support Worker directly at the telephone numbers below:

Eastern Region

Dairyfarm Training
Unit 18 Dairy Farm Centre
Stewartstown Road
Belfast BT17 OAW

Tel: 028 9061 8452

Northern Region

Network Personnel Ltd
Rainey Centre
Rainey Street
Magherafelt BT45 5AJ

Tel: 028 7963 1032

Southern Region

People 1st
11 Castlewellan Road
Banbridge BT32 4AX

Tel: 028 4066 9855

Western Region

Strabane Community Work Programme
Unit 10
Upper Main Street
Strabane

Co. Tyrone BT82 8AR

Tel: 028 7188 3662

FAQ



What can the Support Worker do to help me?

Support Workers will discuss your situation and your ideas for getting into work. They will work with you to help you sort out any issues you have which are holding you back from getting a job. These could be issues about accommodation, addictions, declaring convictions, benefits, personal presentation, confidence and motivation. At the same time they will help you move towards work through education, training and personal support and ultimately assist you to find employment.

Is progress2work a training programme?

progress2work is more of a support service where you meet up (or talk on the phone) with Support Workers on a regular basis to help deal with your barriers and find the best route into work.

How long does progress2work last?

You can get help on progress2work for up to one year.

Is my benefit affected if I leave progress2work early?

No, the programme is completely voluntary and your benefit will not be affected.

Do I have to do training as part of progress2work?

Nothing in progress2work is compulsory but you will be encouraged to learn new skills and achieve qualifications that will prepare you for entering/re-entering employment.

What happens next?



A Support Worker will arrange to meet you at a location near you (possibly, a Jobs and Benefits Office/Jobcentre, hostel, probation office or community centre) to explain more about the programme. You will probably meet two or three times and if the Support Worker and you are both happy, then you will agree an Action Plan to work towards the goal of getting a job. After this, provided that you show that you are committed to making progress by attending appointments, keeping in contact with the Support Worker and following your action plan, you will receive help as long as you need it to find work.

What funding is available?



As a participant on progress2work you will not receive anything on top of your existing benefit payments. However there may be some limited funding available to help you to remove barriers to employment.

Programmes available



While you are on progress2work you can join any other programme delivered by the Department for Employment and Learning. These include:

- Steps to Work
- Pathways to Work
- Bridge to Employment
- New Deal for Disabled People
- ApprenticeshipsNI
- Training for Success

You can continue to receive support from progress2work while you are on these programmes.

Benefits



The benefit of participating on progress2work is that you will get the one-to-one tailored support that you need to help you move into and stay in employment.

The programme is very flexible allowing you to leave and rejoin at a later date when your personal circumstances are right.

You can move along at a pace that suits you providing that you are progressing in the right direction.