

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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CC:

The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education
The Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, Minister for Women and Equalities

28 July 2020

RE: the Plan for Jobs 2020 and disabled young people

Dear Chancellor,

I write on behalf of a group of organisations with an interest in supporting disabled young people to make a successful transition from education to employment. The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 leaves us deeply concerned that a generation of disabled young people will be left behind.

Some of our organisations are part of the Youth Employment Group. We welcomed your announcement to make additional provisions for young people seeking work and ask the Government to have regard for equality of opportunity across all measures.

A briefing outlining a number of recommendations is attached to this letter for your consideration. These include:

1. The Kickstarter scheme is made open to a wider group than just those claiming Universal Credit (e.g. those with Education, Health and Care plans and on Employment Support Allowance).
2. Align Kickstarter placements with supported internships schemes to enable the number of internships to expand to meet demand.
3. Doubling the number of Disability Employment Advisors in line with the doubling of work coaches to ensure sufficient capacity to provide effective support.



**We are the National Deaf Children's Society,
the leading charity for deaf children.**

Chief Executive: Susan Daniels OBE | President: Sir Christopher Benson FRICS DL
Registered Office: Ground Floor South, Castle House, 37–45 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LS
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and in Scotland (SC040779). Company limited by guarantee registered in England no. 2752456

4. New careers advisors who work with disabled people to receive training to enable them to provide tailored support for disabled people.
5. Extend the pre-existing £1,000 incentive payments to employers and training providers of young apprentices with Education, Health and Care plans to any disabled young person taking an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship.
6. Speed up decision-making for those applying to Access to Work to ensure that young people on Kickstarter work placements receive the support and technology they require from the beginning of their placements.
7. Ensuring that online job-finding support services are accessible and relevant to disabled job-seekers through consulting with organisations representing disabled young people. Our organisations would be happy to support.
8. Take-up of the schemes are tracked so that the Government knows how many disabled young people are accessing them. Data is made available publically with breakdown by type of disability.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience about how you will look to take these recommendations forward. To discuss this letter further please contact Jennifer Smith, Senior Executive Assistant at the National Deaf Children's Society on Jennifer.smith@ndcs.org.uk / 0207 014 1159.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Haines
Executive Director Policy and Campaigns, National Deaf Children's Society

Co-signed:

Emma Cruickshank, Thomas Pocklington Trust
Fazilet Hadi, Disability Rights UK
Fiona Barrett, Genius Within
Gemma Hope, Leonard Cheshire
Linda Jordan, National Development Team for Inclusion
Ruth Perry, Natspec
Tony Wilson, Institute for Employment Studies
Tristan Shorrock, Council for Disabled Children