

Discover Opportunities Centre

The **Discover Opportunities Centre** is Dundee's First Stop shop for people that are looking for support with getting into work. The Discover Opportunities Centre brings the main public bodies that support employability initiatives in the city together in order to provide a better service to people looking for work. These services have been co located to make sure that they provide a more joined up service for our customers.

Priorities for us include people who are on benefits and have issues that need addressed and who will benefit from the extra support that the Discover Opportunities Centre, agencies working within the Centre, or other partners can provide.

All the organisations in the centre work as part of "Discover Opportunities" - the Dundee Partnership's Employability Programme which is committed to increasing the number of people of working age in Dundee who are in work.

The following organisations are located in the Discover Opportunities Centre:

The **Discover Opportunities team** incorporates the Working for Families initiative which supports parents and lone parents who are unemployed, on a very low income or keen to improve their prospects. The Discover Opportunities team also supports the delivery of Dundee's Employability Programme through funding and managing employability activity and comprises the Dundee Employability Programme Manager, two Employability

Programme Support Officers and a central Administration team that supports all the activity in the centre.

Dundee Employability Action Team - this is an initiative to help customers move from benefits into work and is a flexible local initiative run through Jobcentre Plus. The Employability Action Team can help customers remove barriers on an individual basis looking at what's best for the customers tailoring their services and work with other organisations to best suit individual's needs.

Working Towards Health - this is a team of health professionals from a range of backgrounds that supports people with health issues improve their health or manage their health conditions to enable them to move towards work, training or education. Working Towards Health complements the Governments "Pathways to Work" initiative which provides support to all new and repeat Incapacity Benefit claimants and a number of people who volunteer to join the Pathways Programme.

This initiative gives you the opportunity to meet with a health professional on a confidential 1 to 1 basis. Your health professional will work with you to help you understand and manage your health condition better. The team can help with a wide variety of health conditions, for example, depression, anxiety, or chronic pain. If as a result of your health problem, you have lost the confidence to move forward, Health Practitioners can help you address this.

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More Choices More Chances

More Choices More Chances is the initiative that aims to prevent young people from leaving school without something positive to move into such as education or training and also provides support to organisations that work with young people that are not in education, work or training. The MCMC manager in the Discover Opportunities Centre is responsible for working with organisations to develop activity that will either assist in preventing young people leaving school without a positive destination or which will assist young people, once they have left school, move into activity which is focused on education, employment or training.

Joint Action Team

The Joint Action Team helps organise additional support for vulnerable young people in school from a partnership which includes Local Authority Departments, Health, Police, Children's Reporter and the Voluntary Sector. The JAT administration team is based in the centre as their work connects so closely with the preventative element of MCMC work.

Financial Inclusion (Money Matters)

The Dundee Partnership's Financial Inclusion Co-ordinator is based at Discover Opportunities and supports the development of personal money matters education, as well as financial inclusion products and services such as financial health checks, affordable credit and specialist money advice.

We recognise that financial matters can be a barrier to moving into and staying in work and we aim to integrate financial inclusion activity with employment focused activity to help people address this barrier. Money Advice for individuals working through the Employability Programme is already available through the Centre and we aim to extend this over the coming years.