

“Health, Work and Well-being Update”

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Our Vision

We want to create a society where the positive links between work and health are recognised by all, where everyone aspires to a healthy and fulfilling working life, and where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work.



Improving Health and Work: Changing Lives
November 2008



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- 4 key themes:
 - Creating new perspectives
 - Improving work and workplaces
 - Supporting people to work
 - Measuring progress
- Funded programme of inter-related initiatives
- Key stakeholder challenges



Creating new perspectives

- “Fit Note”
 - New certificate
 - Computer-generated format
- National Education Programme for GPs
- Health, Work and Well-being coordinators
- National Centre for Working Age, Health and Well-being

Improving work and workplaces

- Business Healthcheck tool
- Occupational Health helpline for SMEs
- Challenge fund
- Extension of NHS Plus
- National mental health and employment strategy

Supporting people to work

- Fit for Work pilots
- Employment Advisers in improving access to psychological therapies programme (IAPT)
- Employment Advisers in GP surgeries (Pathways Advisory Service)
- Extension of Access to Work
- Improving work retention for those with chronic and fluctuating health conditions

Implications of economic downturn

- People in work with health conditions more at risk
- SMEs need to reduce costs and increase productivity
- Testing of options prior to economic upturn
- Demographic shift unaffected by current situation
- Risk of loss of focus on health, safety and wellbeing

Conclusion

This is an ambitious journey, but one which is crucially important to everyone of working age, their families, their communities, our society and the wider economy. By working together, our efforts will help us to combat social exclusion, eradicate child poverty, support our ageing population, and build a workforce for tomorrow. By improving health and work we will make a real difference to people's lives.



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