



For children and adults
with support needs and
learning disabilities
and their carers

Welfare Rights Service

Working in partnership with
Supported Employment Services

The need for Welfare Rights Advice



- Benefits: a complex bureaucratic maze
- Particularly difficult for people with additional support needs
- Ease anxiety around coming off benefits
- Without a basic income it's not possible to progress

The need for independent and accurate advice



- Repercussions of poor or inaccurate advice:
Stress, anxiety, debt, crisis, loss of money

Advice you can trust



- Verifies independence of the service
- Verifies the competency of our staff to deliver high quality advice
- Verifies the quality of the organisation and management of the service

When Does Advice Get Involved?

Initial referral



Vocational Profile



Job search begins



Employment gained



Tax Credit annual declaration time



Change in employment circumstances

What we can do and at what stage

- Initial referral
- Vocational Profile
- Help if there's a crisis
- Full benefits check
- Any missing benefits claimed/poor decisions challenged
- Passport benefits (DLA)
- Discounts (SMI)
- Free bus travel?

What we can do contin...

- Job Search
- Employment gained
- In work Scenarios
- Work with ESW to make sure all relevant benefit agencies are notified
- Claim in-work benefits such as Tax Credits
- Check Tax Credit award notice to make sure it's accurate



What we can do continued...

- Tax Credit Annual declaration
- Support ESW's to make sure that service users have received and responded to Tax Credit annual declarations – check award notice
- Change of employment circumstances – hours increase/decrease .
- Advise and assist where needed: with new claims-reclaims-linking rules etc
- Job ends

How we work together with Supported Employment Providers

- Train staff – basic benefits induction and training manual
- There at every step of the supported employment process to advise and assist
- There once in work – annual declarations
- There when work ends

Any Questions?

