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Getting Employment Help

During the current Covid-19 pandemic, you might be feeling anxious and uncertain about your future job prospects. Whether you've been put on temporary leave or been made redundant, you might be wondering what that means for you. Read our top tips to optimise your time off, discover local job opportunities, and see if you might be eligible for financial support.

Financial Support

If you have lost your job or are working reduced hours, you may be able to claim employment and benefits support. Statutory Sick Pay is also now available to those who are required to self-isolate because they have been notified that they have come into contact with someone who has coronavirus, and are unable to work as a result. People will continue to receive benefits as normal, but all requirements to attend the job centre in person are currently suspended. To make an application for Universal Credit, you can do this [online](#). If you are uncertain about what to apply for, use the Government's [benefits calculator](#) to discover what support you might be entitled to.

For more guidance about benefits:

www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/

Training Advice

Been off work for a while or furloughed? Now is a good time to improve your skill-set to give you the best chance of progressing your career. In the current Covid-19 crisis, many providers are extending their online course provision. Courses offered by state funded universities and colleges are approved by the government. If you're looking for digital and numeracy courses, [The Skills Toolkit](#) has free courses from a range of providers, such as Lloyds Bank and the Open University. For other work-related courses on a wide range of topics, discover the [National Careers Service](#) database.

Finding a Job

Age UK Islington Helpline 020 7281 6018, gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk

The job-hunting process can seem overwhelming if you've been made redundant or you're looking for a career change. There are, however, thousands of jobs available in critical industries like logistics, food retail, teaching, agriculture, and care. Take the [National Careers Services' skills assessment](#) to find out what careers might be right for you. Once you have chosen a career path, use the time off to brush up on your CV, network online and discover the best interview techniques. [Job Help](#) provides excellent tips and resources on effective job research as well as advice on redundancy.

Sources of Local Job Opportunities

To find job opportunities in your local area, use the [Find a Job](#) service to create a profile, upload your CV, and receive email alerts about new and existing jobs. Alternatively, [KX Recruit Vacancies](#) have a number of new job opportunities within a variety of different industries. If you're looking for a role specifically within social care, [Proud to Care](#) advertises roles specific to level of seniority and experience.

How Age UK Islington can help

First steps

Age UK Islington provides broad support and guidance for all areas of Wellbeing. We can help you to take the first steps.

This can include things like:

- **Benefit advice** – we can review the benefits that you're receiving and signpost or refer you to specialist partner organisations to provide an indepth benefits check
- **Making applications for benefits** – we can help clarify what the supporting documents are that you need, help provide guidance around what some of the questions mean so that you can then complete the form yourself. We can also signpost or refer you to specialist partner organisations where needed.
- **Help you to find training or ways to increase your skills**

Next steps

- Employment and financial matters can be complex and once we've got an understanding of your specific circumstances, we can refer you to one of our specialist partners to help.

More information

Gov.uk website

www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/

Citizens Advice Bureau

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/>

Job Seekers site

<https://jobhelp.dwp.gov.uk/>

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/where-to-find-free-online-learning#personal>

Get in touch

Contact Age UK Islington Helpline: 0207 281 6018 (Mon to Fri 9 - 5pm)

Email: gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk

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