

Social Firms UK Annual Conference
Shaping The Future: Supportive Employment, Successful Businesses
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**WORKSHOP iii: I Get More On Benefits Than If I Took A Job:
Why Should I Want To Do That Then?**

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Background:

What are the known benefits of working – not just in Social Firms but in any company? What are the main concerns of disabled people in taking a job? How can these help to be alleviated? This workshop offers a chance to discuss and debate these points for the customers of employment service providers.

Key Points

1) Research into employment from a service users perspective shows that the main benefits of working are confidence, self-esteem meeting new people and making friends rather than money.

These benefits are followed by the benefits that come from earning a wage rather than money itself, such as greater independence and a sense of achievement..

2) A review is taking place which may lead to a shift in where money is spent in helping those furthest from employment into work. Some traditional approaches are expensive and possibly a little outdated in their approach. e.g. each place in a Remploy factory costs £18,000 a year.

Some changes in the benefits system are happening.

3) From October 06 there will be changes to the linking rules - no need to inform Jobcentre Plus and extended to two years.

4) Working Tax credit can be used by disabled people going into self-employment. Disabled people can get £74.80 per week while they start up their new business. Additional income can be averaged over the year.

5) Access to work can be made to people on permitted work providing that they are moving toward work.