

Unemployed young people

- 1 Cabinet Office minister Matt Hancock from the Conservative party has denied that a government plan to send young unemployed people to boot camps to prepare them for work was a form of punishment. “We are penalising nobody because nobody who does the right thing and plays by the rules will lose their benefits,” he told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme. “In fact this is about giving more support to young people.”
- 2 Mr Hancock will set out plans for young jobseekers to be placed in an intensive activity programme within the first three weeks of submitting a claim. They will get an initial three-week intensive course of practising job applications and interviews, which will be regularly reviewed by a dedicated job coach. Jobless 18- to 21-year-olds will be required to do work experience as well as looking for jobs or face losing their benefit.
- 3 Setting out his plans, Mr Hancock suggested some young people were part of a “welfare culture that has become standard among some of Britain’s most vulnerable communities”. He said: “By ensuring that every young person is in work or training, by opening up three million more apprenticeships, expanding traineeships, and making sure that a life on benefits is simply not an option, we want to end ongoing welfare dependency for good. We don’t want people to be dependent on welfare from generation to generation. We are absolutely committed to ending long-term youth unemployment and to building a country for workers, where everyone can achieve their potential.”
- 4 The idea of boot camps for young people without jobs is not a new one. The Conservative party previously suggested it in 2008, when the party wanted to “abolish benefit payments for any able-bodied person under 21 who is out of work for more than three months”.

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