



Milburn report is contradicted by what the DWP is doing

Description

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DWP PIP

Yesterday saw the release of the interim report of the [Milburn Review](#) into youth unemployment. However, it completely contradicts everything the [Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\)](#) is already doing to make life harder for unemployed and disabled young people.

A media circus instead of support

The long-awaited report was supposed to delve into why so many young people are unemployed. However, that was never going to be the whole story when it was run by [Alan Milburn](#).

Once you got past the [DWP-created media circus](#) the report was [Milburn's attempt to prove his foregone conclusion](#) that young people were faking disability, despite the evidence saying otherwise. While the former health secretary was forced to acknowledge the actual nuanced reasons that kids struggle to get into work, he then contradicted all of them by presenting his own opinions on the topic as fact.

For example, after including a report on young people's psychological distress, he said:

It confirms that what we are seeing is not simply a change in how young people talk about their mental health. It is a change in their capacity to participate. There is a difference between a generation that is more willing to name its struggles and a generation that is functionally less able to engage with education and work.

While the report pretended to set out all the evidence so Milburn could move forward and work on solutions, the DWP is actually already contradicting it.

DWP contradicts own report

The report claims to want to support young disabled people so they can get into work. However, the way the government is trying to keep them from accessing that support says otherwise.

Currently, the DWP is pushing ahead with the [youth guarantee](#), which will force young people into any work. This applies whether or not it's their chosen career. The scheme has been criticised for pushing young people into [military and war-related careers](#). Most recently, the department [celebrated McDonald's joining the youth guarantee](#). As a result, young people will be forced into low-skilled jobs that are rife with harassment.

Alongside this, they're also systematically stripping disabled people of benefits. The DWP chief Pat McFadden [refused to rule out scrapping](#) the health element of Universal Credit for disabled people under the age of 22. They've also [cut Universal Credit for new disabled claimants](#). This means anyone who claims now will get half what a disabled claimant got last year.

All of this is despite the fact the DWP's own figures revealed that [work poses a serious health and suicide risk](#) for young disabled people.

Even though the DWP is forcing more disabled people into work, they're of course doing absolutely nothing to support them. To the point where they're [actively cutting](#) Access to Work (AtW) and [stripping people of the support they're already entitled to](#). There's also a [monumental backlog of people waiting for Access to Work](#) and in March, it was 66,000. Most recently the DWP crowed about [hiring new AtW advisors](#), despite them being [shamed into it](#).

DWP doesn't care

What's clear from all of this is that the DWP is hellbent on destroying disabled people's lives. However, they know that in order to do that, they need to create a narrative of who deserves benefits. This is exactly what they're doing by making themselves look like the saviour of unemployed disabled people.

Featured image via the Canary

By [Rachel Charlton-Dailey](#)

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