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The Routes to Work project is a jointly funded pilot initiative involving the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and is delivered through the local authorities to support those people most distant from the labour market to overcome difficulties and access employment. This includes people who have been out of work for a long period, have barriers preventing them from accessing employment such as mental health, physical health, offending, low skills/ education, homelessness and those who are no longer eligible for alternative support.

The Tees Valley Routes to Work programme has now been extended for another year due to its success in its first three years. The programme will offer support to unemployed people across the region until 31st March 2022. Since its start in 2018 it has already supported almost 3,000 people and helped nearly 600 back into employment across the Tees Valley.

As part of this extension Routes to Work can now support people aged 16+ with signposting, information, advice and guidance and Routes to Work full support if there is no other provision they can access. This change in criteria means more people can access the service, bridging gaps in the existing support, ensuring everyone can receive the help they need to get into employment.

