



# Access to Work (AtW)

- What?
- How?
- Who?
- What next?

**Stuart Edwards, DWP, Strategy lead for Access to Work**

BASE Conference 2017 Manchester, Room 7. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 11:40

## What - Background

Access to Work is the government's flagship programme to support disabled people to take up or remain in work.

It is a demand-led discretionary grant scheme providing personalised support, beyond the legal duty to make "Reasonable Adjustments"

The current maximum grant for new users is £41,400 per person per year, dependent on minimum need, not income or National Insurance record.

It was started in 1994 by bringing together disparate in-work support schemes including the "Blind Readers' Scheme".

Contributes to governments ambition to halve the Disability employment rate gap. (Getting ~1m disabled people into work)

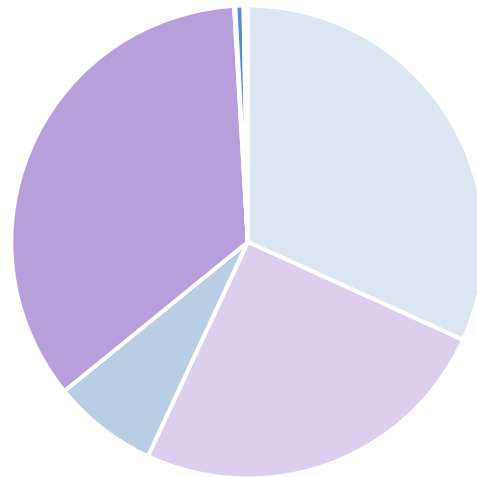
## How is AtW administered

- Enabling powers (S2 Education & Training Act 1972) are very broad and therefore scheme is very flexible.
- AtW is delivered by approx. 240 civil servants in Jobcentre Plus. These have been concentrated in 3 operational sites since 2014
- The new organisation permitted the formation of specialist teams, and facilitated better training and consistency in decision making,
- The scheme costs around £8mpa in DEL-P to administer.
- AtW has invested in a digital platform which went live in September 2016

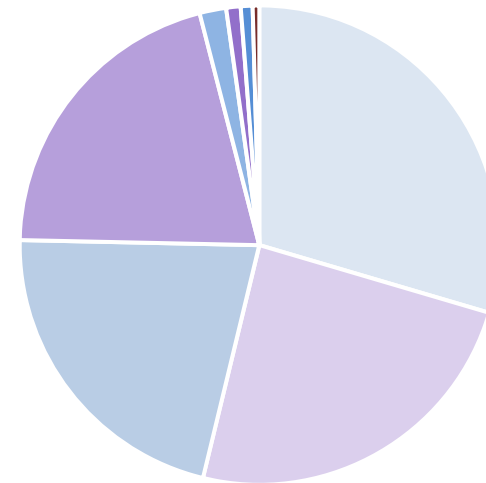
# How does AtW deliver?

Support is personalised and can include grants to fund wide ranging interventions beyond “reasonable adjustment”.

Support Types 2015-16



Support Types 2007-08



- Travel
- Assessment
- SAE
- Support Worker
- Misc
- CSI
- Adaptation to Vehicles
- Adaptation to Premises

## Support for apprentices

There is a new Remploy service to help apprentices who have a mental health condition that has resulted in absence or is causing them difficulties to stay in their apprenticeship.

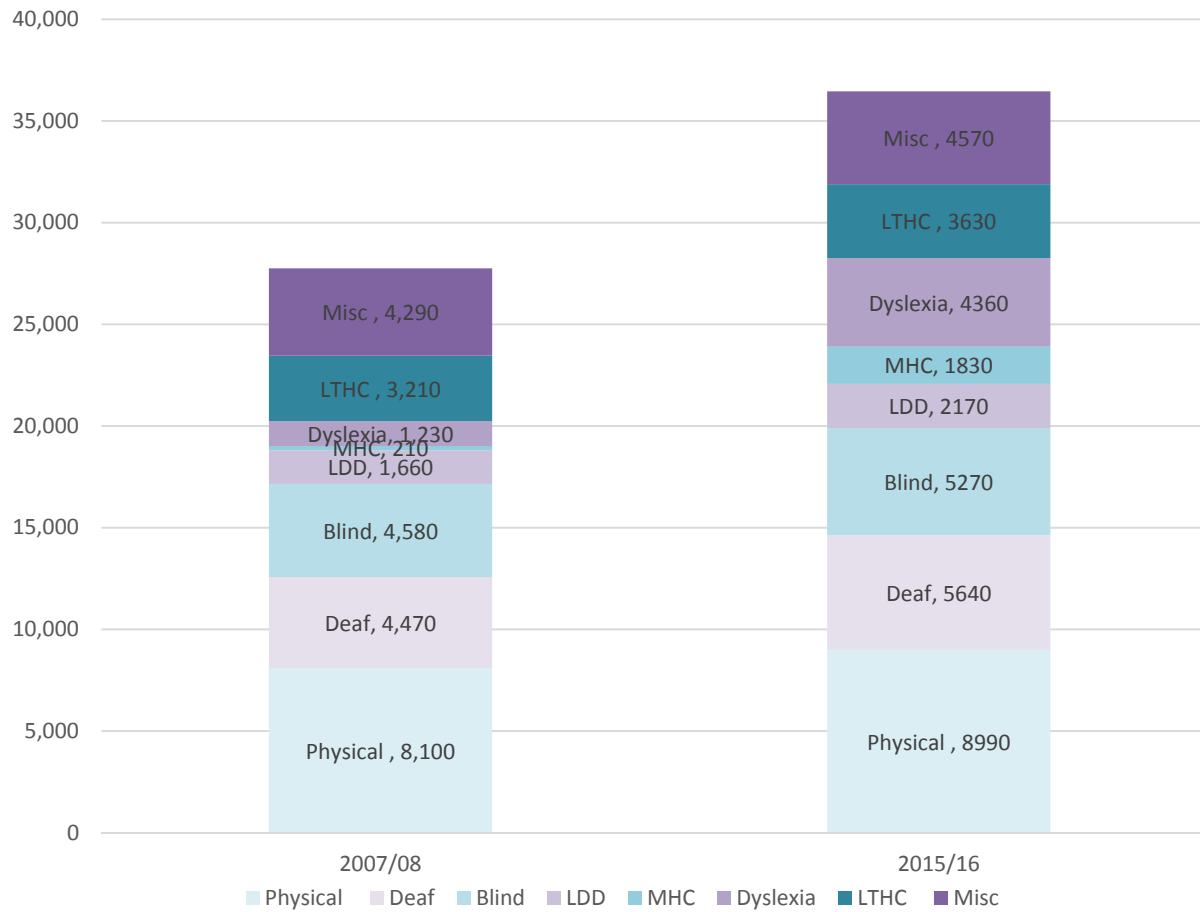
The **Supporting Apprentices: Mental Health Support Service** provides targeted support to apprentices with a mental health condition, helping them to remain in work and continue with their apprenticeship.

For more information, visit [www.rempoy.co.uk](http://www.rempoy.co.uk), email [apprentices@rempoy.co.uk](mailto:apprentices@rempoy.co.uk) or call 0300 456 8210.



# Who does it support?

Main Disabling Conditions



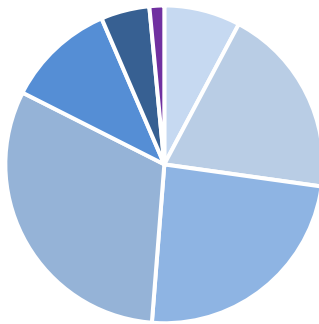
# Who does it support?

Our new digital programme with aide data capture so we don need to ask customers to repeat information and we capture better MI.



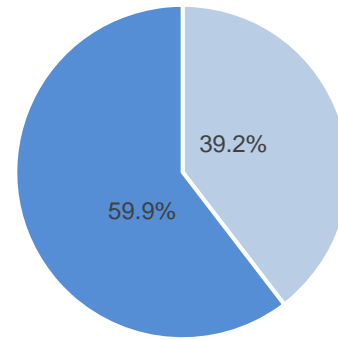
Customer age profiles 15-16

- 16 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 59
- 60 - 64
- 65 and over

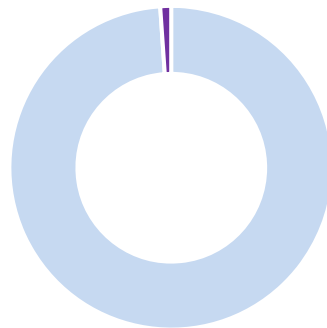


Customer gender profiles 15-16

- Male
- Female



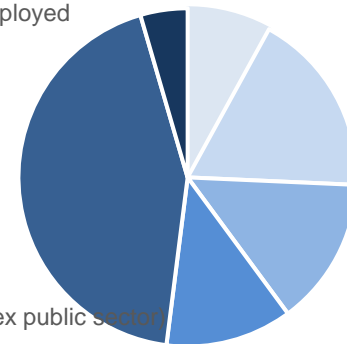
AtW v all working Disabled People



- DP in Work
- Atw

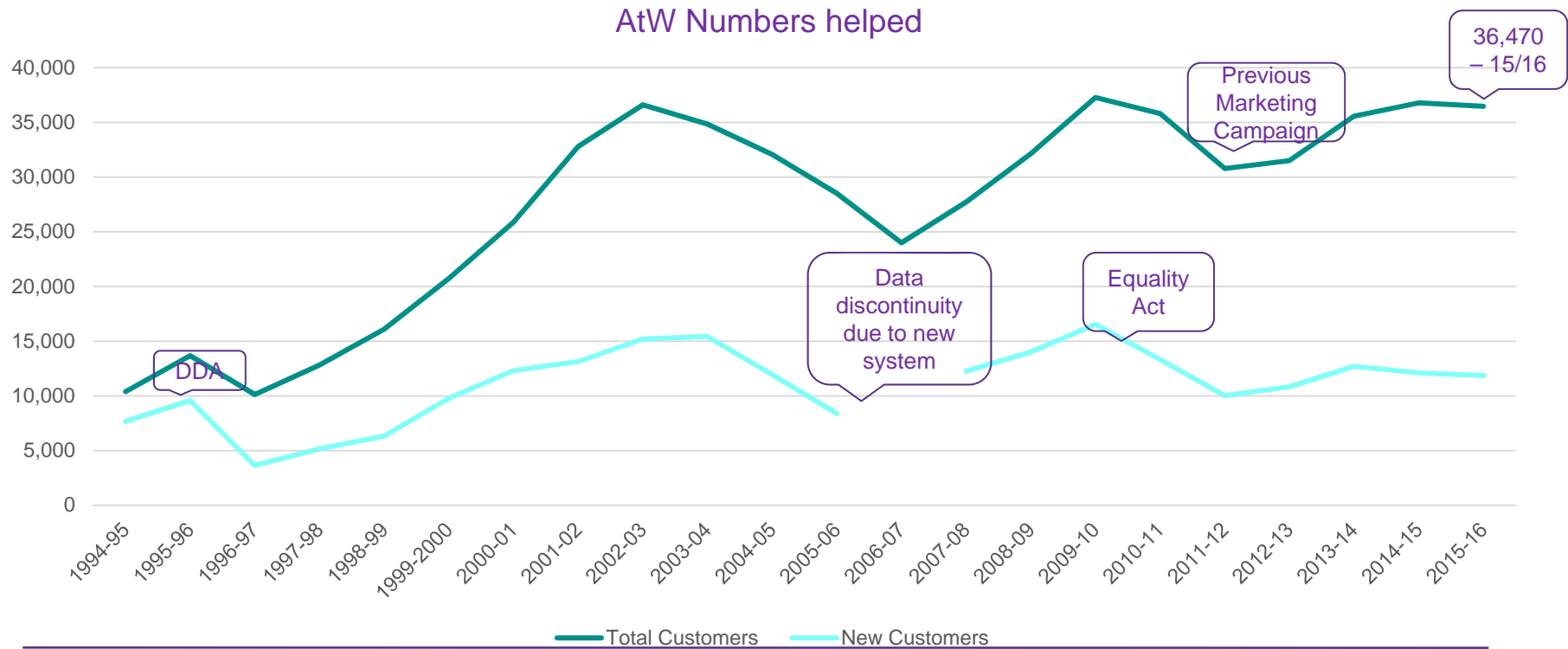
Employment Sector (2013)

- Self Employed
- Micro
- Small
- Medium
- Large (ex public sector)
- Public sector



# Strategic Aims

- **BIGGER** – Increasing the reach of the scheme.
- **BETTER/FASTER**– improving speed of both applications and payments
- **Value for Money** – By greater use of technology & contracting.





## What next - Strategic Aims – “Bigger” – Funding envelope

To support the Government’s manifesto commitment to halve the disability employment gap, received a real terms increase in the Spending Review starting in 16/17.

This is to drive and support demand from up to a further 25,000 people by the end of the Parliament.

Digital transformation will provide DEL-Admin savings to support the administration of this expansion.

## Strategic Aims – Better – digitization.



**36,500**

customers are supported by ATW a year



**£97m**

of ATW grants are provided to ATW customers annually



**270,000**

payments to ATW customers or contractors a year



**57,000**

annual decisions about customers' eligibility to a grant



**115,000**

annual calls to the ATW call centres

- The current programme of change is considering areas such as increasing commercialisation, cost share reform & support for part-time self-employed people.
- Now we have our digital platform running we are beginning a marketing campaign to raise awareness.

# How do I apply/refer someone

Individuals rather than employers need to apply for AtW. If people cannot use the online service then telephony or paper based applications are possible. Visit [www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work) has more information.

GOV.UK Search

Home > Benefits > Carers and disability benefits

## Access to Work

1. Overview
2. [Eligibility](#)
3. [What you'll get](#)
4. [How to claim](#)

### 1. Overview

An Access to Work grant can pay for [practical support](#) if you have a disability, health or mental health condition to help you:

- start working
- stay in work
- move into self-employment or start a business

The grant is not for business start-up costs.

How much you get depends on your circumstances.

The money doesn't have to be paid back and will not affect your other benefits.

There's a different system in [Northern Ireland](#).

#### Elsewhere on GOV.UK

- [Reasonable adjustments for disabled workers](#)
- [Definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Disability rights](#)
- [Looking for work if you're disabled](#)