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# The Communicator

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**THE VOICE OF THE CLEVELAND TRADE UNIONISTS & UNEMPLOYED WORKERS RESOURCE CENTRE, THE CLEVELAND ONE FUND FOR ALL AND THE CLEVELAND ASSOCIATION OF TRADES UNION COUNCILS**

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## The Centre Needs Help

The Cleveland Trade Unionists & Unemployed Workers resource Centre is going through a difficult time, in this recession. With fewer organisations booking rooms, our income has been severally depleted, and more people are needing our help, without the funding to cover the extra work we are finding it difficult to cover our running costs. If you could help by donating to the COFFA or your branch/organisation could make a donation we would be most grateful. Your money would help us deliver our services.

## Improve Your Skills, Your Job, Your Future

Do you need help to decide your next step in learning, skills and work? The right advice is so important. Nextstep is a free careers service for everyone aged 20 and over. A Nexstep

adviser will be in the Centre on the following dates:

Tuesday, 15 Sept, 2009,

Tuesday, 22 Sept, 2009,

Tuesday, 1 Oct, 2009,

Tuesday, 8 Oct, 2009,

Tuesday, 13 Oct 2009,

Between 9.00am and 12 noon. Call the Centre

Co-ordinator to book an appointment.

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## Job's

The US group International Process Plants and the Indonesian firm Indorama are reported to be in discussions to buy the Artenius plastics plant. Over 380 jobs have been lost at the plant following the decision of the Spanish parent company to put the plant up for sale. Meanwhile Stockton North MP Frank Cook has been reassured that the North Tees refinery could be sold as a going concern.



Corus workers Birmingham Saturday, 16 May 2009.

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## Tax Credits News

New regulation for four week run-on

A new regulation has been passed to clarify and extend the rules for the four week run-on of working tax credit (WTC). This follows the announcement in the Budget. The regulation, in force from 31 July 2009, amends the Working Tax Credit (Entitlement and Maximum Rate) Regulations 2002, with the following effects:

- A single person or member of a couple who stops working at least 16 hours a week, is entitled to a four week run-on of WTC. (No change to the previous rule).
- Someone aged 25 and over who stops working at least 30 hours a week is entitled to a four-week run-on of WTC. (This extends entitlement to include those whose hours drop to between 16 and 30 a week).
- A couple where both are working at least 16 hours and one stops working at least 16 hours, are entitled to a four-week run-on of the childcare element, even though there is no loss of entitlement to WTC. (This is a new provision).
- The four-week run-on includes all elements of WTC (including the childcare element and 30-hour element) to which the claimant(s) were formerly entitled. (This clarifies the rule).

- Clarifies that entitlement to WTC during periods covered by illness, maternity/adoption, term-time/seasonal working and gaps between jobs includes all elements of WTC (including the childcare element and 30-hour element) to which the claimant(s) were formerly entitled.

The amended rules state that someone who is getting WTC during the four-week run-on or during a period of illness, maternity/adoption, term-time/seasonal working, or in gaps between jobs, is treated as in work for the purposes of the qualifying conditions for WTC as a whole. This implies that entitlement to WTC should continue if any of these periods are consecutive, within set limits. For example, if someone is off work due to illness immediately after maternity leave.

### New Secretary

Yvette Cooper has replaced James Purnell as the work and pensions secretary. Jim Knight becomes minister responsible for employment and welfare reform and Lord McKenzie of Luton

remains the health and safety minister.

### Workers Memorial Day

The DWP recently announced a consultation, seeking views on the Government's proposals for the official recognition of Workers Memorial Day in the UK. The document can be accessed online at: [www.dwp.gov.uk/workers-memorial-day-consultation.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/workers-memorial-day-consultation.pdf)

### Attendance Allowance

Benefit claimants may lose out if additional social care is funded by transferring money from the Attendance Allowance. The Government has ruled out increasing overall public spending to pay for its proposal in the Green Paper 'Shaping the future of care together' to fund up to one-third of the personal care cost of those eligible, bringing many self-funders into the system. The Green Paper says the Government may integrate "some elements of disability benefits, for example Attendance Allowance", to find the extra funding.

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