

## **32. Influencing Healthcare Professionals Knowledge of the Links between Health and Work**

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The role of healthcare professionals in influencing patients beliefs about work and health is crucial to addressing the high rates of sickness absence and disability claimants in the UK. An independent evidence review, published in late 2006, confirmed how work can improve both physical and mental health for the majority of people including people on state benefits yet the importance of work is not always appreciated by doctors, other healthcare professionals or patients. leading to prolonged sick leave signed by doctors and , in some cases, reluctance of patients and their medical advisors, to return to work

Against this background, and as part of a wider strategy on health and work, DWP has been using different ways of influencing primarily doctors, but also nurses and other healthcare professionals, to better appreciate the benefit of work for their patients.

This presentation will discuss how DWP took the findings of the evidence review, developed key messages and delivered those messages to General Practitioners (GPs/family doctors) and other healthcare professionals using electronic and web based means as well as traditional leaflets and articles.