

GRiD sees Barnsley Council's launch of Pathways to Work report as direction of travel for UK business to support employees back to work

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Following Barnsley Council's launch of its Pathways to Work report, which has been endorsed by the Government, GRiD, the industry body for group risk, welcomes the launch and sees this as the direction of travel that workplaces will need to follow to support people back to work.

Katharine Moxham, spokesperson for GRiD says: "GRiD agrees that a key challenge to UK growth continues to be the one in five working age people who are out of work but not seeking a job, often for reasons of ill-health. It's encouraging to hear the report findings that seven out of ten economically inactive people want to work. The group risk industry, which an increasing number of employers are utilising, according to Swiss Re's 2024 Group Watch, is ideally placed to help with this challenge by stemming the flow of workers into inactivity because of ill-health.

"There are calls for employers to play their part in helping to reduce the number of people who are economically inactive and those with group income protection will be well-placed to do this. Group income protection providers can help deliver that outcome for employers and employees alike, whilst saving the state considerable effort and cost by mitigating the number of people whose health presents a barrier to work becoming economically inactive, by getting them back to work and financially supporting those who genuinely can't go back or who need longer to do so.

"Group risk benefits provide a comprehensive range of embedded services aimed at improving the health

and wellbeing of employees, underpinned by highly effective Vocational Rehabilitation, helping people who are absent from work due to ill-health make a sustainable return to work. All of this is provided alongside a group income protection policy, which provides financial support whilst an employee is unable to work for health reasons.”