

TUC

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(Excerpt)

Get ready for slivers-of-time working

A new form of flexible working is being backed by the government and the private sector. The Slivers-of-Time Programme 'allows individuals to sell their 'spare hours' around other commitments to local employers who need ad hoc top-up workers,' says programme director Wingham Rowan. Writing on the Union Ideas Network website, he says: 'There are millions of people in the UK who need to find work around other commitments (eg. childcare, medical constraints, existing part-time work, caring for a dependant adult, job-seeking, studying or starting their own enterprise). There are many employers who would like access to a pool of local individuals willing to work odd hours to cover peaks in demand or absences. If those workers could show they were reliable it would become worthwhile paying for their induction so their skilled time could be bought from that point on.' He says the programme is currently 'in testing mode but looking to expand to other parts of the UK where there are funds being spent on local work by local people.' Rowan adds: 'If Slivers-of-Time Working is embraced by unions as an alternative they could add enormous value by underpinning worker conditions, perhaps in return for a micro-payment within each booking.'

[Union Ideas Network report](#). [Slivers-of-Time website](#).