

## The Coalition: Our Programme for Government – Jobs and Welfare

This is a response to the public comments received on The Coalition: Our Programme for Government on Jobs and Welfare - <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk/jobs-and-welfare/>. We received over 450 comments, and would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute their thoughts and ideas.

The main theme that respondents highlighted was the need for **radical reform of our welfare system**. Many felt that the current system needs to be fairer, less complicated, and provide better incentives for people to move off benefits and into work.

We agree that worklessness and welfare dependency are a blight on our communities. Work should pay for the poorest - that is only fair. Therefore we are examining what we must do to improve incentives for people to make the journey back into sustainable work, as well as simplifying the system to make it more responsive to people's needs.

We will be seeking views on our proposals for reform in this area very shortly.

Another major theme was providing **better and more personalised support** to help people to find work. That is why the Government is putting in place a new Work Programme, which will provide an integrated, personalised package of support to those who need it and help them get back into work and stay in work.

At present, the support you get is based on the benefit you get. This crude allocation ignores the fact that people's barriers to work are as individual as they are. The support supplied by the Work Programme will be determined by frontline delivery partners who will be given as much freedom as possible to deliver the help that people need.

We will also offer stronger incentives for delivery partners to work with the harder to help, including personalised support for disabled people. This means that those who are able to, can make the journey back into work, and stay in work.

And for the first time, we will pay delivery partners out of the additional benefits they realise as a result of placing people into work – ensuring that no one is left behind.

Alongside the Work Programme we will look to introduce a series of individual support measures such as:

- Work for Yourself, giving self employment support;
- Work Clubs, to give unemployed people a place to share skills and experiences;
- Work Together to encourage unemployed people to get involved in volunteering; and
- Service Academies, which will offer specialised pre-employment training.

We are also exploring proposals to provide further support for young people, including ways of providing young people with work experience.

Many respondents also felt that we need to **reform the Work Capability Assessment (WCA)**, which was introduced in October 2008 to assess entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance.

As well as implementing the recommendations from a DWP-led review of the WCA conducted under the previous Government, we have commissioned a new, independent review of the WCA. This review is taking a more wide-ranging look at how the WCA works in practice and will be completed by the end of the year.

### Find out more

- Public comments on The Coalition: Our Programme for Government on Jobs and Welfare – <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk/jobs-and-welfare/>
- Video response from Oliver Letwin and Danny Alexander on the PFG website - <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk>
- All government responses to public comments on PFG - <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk/response>