

Public Services Forum
18th Meeting: 27 July 2009
1-2.30pm, Cabinet Office

The meeting was chaired by Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office.

1. Chair's welcome and introductory remarks
 - 1.1. The Chair welcomed attendees to the Forum and set out how the Forum would operate under the new chairmanship.
 - 1.2. The TUC welcomed the new Chair.
 - 1.3. Private and Third Sector Partners also expressed their support.
2. PSF report to the Prime Minister
 - 2.1. PSF Secretariat (CO) presented the report - *Public Services Forum: The First Five Years*. The Chair recommended that the Forum endorse the report, thanking PSF partners for their contributions to the important work of the Forum since its establishment and noting its achievements.
3. Reflections and responses
 - 3.1. The TUC, Private and Third Sector partners and Public Sector Employers all welcomed the report and the tangible impact the Forum had made to promoting staff engagement and to the delivery of excellence in public services.
 - 3.2. The Chair, with the agreement of the Forum, set out the intention to send the report to the Prime Minister, to publish it with clear examples of the Forum's successes, and subsequently promote the report with a fringe event at the Trades Union Congress in September 2009.
4. Review of the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting
 - 4.1. The chair of the Joint Statement Review Steering Group and a representative from GMB presented the Steering Group's report and final recommendations.
 - 4.2. BIS and OGC put the Joint Statement in context of the wider work being undertaken on public procurement policy.
 - 4.3. NHS Employers and DH welcomed the Task Group's recommendation that the Joint Statement be rolled out across the NHS (thus extended to cover contracted-out staff across the 1.3 million strong NHS workforce) and set out a process for discussing implementation.
 - 4.4. Local Government Employers also welcomed the review and noted the recommendation that the Joint Statement be extended to cover local government. LGE committed to considering how that could be

achieved and said a working group with involvement from CLG would be established to do this.

4.5. The Chair welcomed the report on behalf of the PSF

5. Issues for future meetings

5.1. Cabinet Office and TUC updated the forum on the work of the Diversity and Equality Task Group and noted that the group would be brought to a close following publication of their guide to implementing the public sector equality duties in summer 2009. The co-chairs would formally report back at the next PSF meeting.

5.2. The Forum agreed with the Cabinet's Office's recommendation that a future agenda item should be to consider the work already underway in government on innovation and how PSF could make a positive contribution.

5.3. The Forum also discussed the need for a further meeting to consider workforce reform issues in the context of the recession. The Cabinet Office and the TUC agreed to work in partnership to explore how to develop the conversation ahead of and through future meetings.

6. AOB

6.1. No AOB was raised

Chair

Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office

The following organisations were represented at this meeting:

Government and employers

Asset Skills
Cabinet Office
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department of Health
HM Treasury
Local Government Employers
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
National Offender Management Service
NHS Employers
Number 10
Office of Government Commerce

Trade unions

Association of Teachers and Lecturers
GMB
FDA
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
Public and Commercial Services Union
Prospect

Trades Union Congress
UNISON
Unite
University and College Union

Third and private sector

Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations
Business Services Association
Confederation of British Industry

Apologies

National Council of Voluntary Organisations
Society of Radiographers