

## **CONSULTATION TOOLKIT**

### **Welfare Reform Green Paper:**

#### **No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility**

#### **Changes to the Welfare Reform system**

The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) consultation: "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" is taking place between 21 July and 22 October 2008.



This Green Paper proposes a benefit system that rewards responsibility. It aims to ensure that opportunity is available to everyone and to end the current injustice whereby too many people are written off on benefits and excluded from help to get back to work.

We would like people to tell us about their experiences, views and aspirations for the benefits system. We are interested in the views of people from all walks of life and from all the regions and countries of the United Kingdom.

We would be grateful for your support in promoting and publicising the consultation and encouraging colleagues, members, friends and family to participate. You could do this by:

- 1. Including details of the consultation in your newsletter or e-bulletin**
- 2. Providing a link on your website to details of the consultation on the DWP website**
- 3. Involving your members in your response to the consultation.**

We understand that people and organisations are often short of time and resources. The following information is therefore designed to support you in promoting and publicising the consultation to members of your organisation easily.

### **1. Template newsletter / e-bulletin copy**

Please consider including details of the consultation in your organisation's newsletter or e-bulletin. The following template copy is designed to support you in doing this.



## **No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility**

In July, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) launched a consultation, “No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility”, to ask people for their views on the future reform of the benefits system.

The consultation, which will run between 21 July and 22 October 2008, aims to find out the best way of continuing to reform the benefits system.

[Your organisation name] is encouraging you to tell the DWP about your experiences, views and aspirations. This is a good opportunity to tell the government what you think on a major reform area.

Key areas of consultation are:

[Areas you think are important to point out]

To take part in the consultation or find out more information, contact the Department for Work and Pensions at:

- **Web:** [www.dwp.gov.uk/noonewrittenoff](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/noonewrittenoff)
- **Email:** [welfare.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:welfare.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
- **Telephone:** 020 7712 2316
- **Textphone:** 020 7962 8380
- **Post:** Welfare Reform Team, Room 249, Level 2, Department for Work and Pensions, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT.

## 2. Link to the DWP website

Please set up a link from your website to details of the consultation on the DWP website at [www.dwp.gov.uk/noonewrittenoff](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/noonewrittenoff)

This consultation will consider the questions raised in the consultation document 'No-one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility'. It is intended to be a wide-reaching consultation on the future of welfare reform: on how best it can improve support and incentives for people to move from benefits into work, to provide greater choice and control, in a way that is simpler to understand and more reflective of the modern labour market.

## 3. Involving your members

**3.1** If you are completing the consultation on behalf of an organisation, you may want to involve your members in compiling your response. You may want to consider:



- tabling item at your next regular members' meeting, committee or similar event
- consulting your members' panel if you have one
- holding a small discussion forum or focus group
- sending details to local networks or groups that your organisation is in touch with.

These are also good opportunities for encouraging people to participate in the consultation as individuals.

**3.2** To support you in participating in the consultation, the following additional support and resources are available:



- if you decide to hold a small event or discussion forum, let us know and we will try to make sure a member of the team can attend
- if you are already holding an event let us know; we are keen to promote the consultation and encourage participation.
- if you would like financial support to organise an event, we may be able to help, so get in touch.

**3.3** If you are thinking of running a small event or discussion forum to canvass views or encourage members to complete their own consultation response, you may want to consider the following hints and tips:

- be focussed and realistic about what you want to achieve from the session or event in the time you have available. It may be ambitious to try to cover all the consultation questions in one go. You may want to run sessions on specific questions or ask participants to decide how they want to focus their discussion
- a group of between 8 – 10 people will ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute to the discussion

- you may want to circulate the consultation document in advance to enable people to think about their views and experiences
- the consultation document is available in a number of accessible formats including large-print, Braille, Easy Read, audio and a BSL video, as well as in Welsh, so make sure you order the formats you require in advance
- if you are canvassing views to feed into an response from your organisation, make sure there is someone there who can record the discussion.

For further information or support, contact the Green Paper Team at:

**1. Email:**

[welfare.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:welfare.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**2. Telephone:** 020 7712 2316

**3. Textphone:** 020 7962 8380

**4. Post:** Welfare Reform Team,  
Room 249, Level 2,  
Department for Work and  
Pensions, The Adelphi, 1-11  
John Adam Street, London,  
WC2N 6HT.



Responses to the Green Paper will form a document of responses to the consultation which will be published in the autumn.

**List of Consultation Questions:**

Question 1: How long should 'work for your benefit' last at different stages in the claim?

Question 2: How could capacity and capability to provide full-time work experience in the community sector be provided and incentivised to produce the best employment outcomes for participants?

Question 3: Is full-time 'work for your benefit' as an alternative to a sanction of loss of benefit for repeated non-compliance with work search requirements an effective option for some jobseekers? How should it be targeted?

Question 4: What penalties do you think would be most effective to deter more people from committing benefit fraud?

Question 5: Do you think it would be appropriate to reduce or withdraw entitlement to benefit after a first offence? How long should the sanction period be?

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposed approach for identifying problem drug use? How should it be implemented? Do you think that everyone claiming a working-age benefit should be required to make a declaration of whether or not they use certain specified drugs?

Question 7: What elements should an integrated system of drug treatment and employment support include? Do you agree that a

rehabilitation plan would help recovering drug users to manage their condition and move towards employment?

Question 8: When is the right time to require ESA claimants to take a skills health check?

Question 9: Should ESA customers be required to attend training in order to gain the identified skills they need to enter work?

Question 10: In view of the need to help lone parents develop the skills they need to find work, are we right to require lone parents to have a skills health check and training as a condition of receiving benefit?

Question 11: Should we pilot extra benefit payments for lone parents in return for training, and if so, when the youngest child is what age?

Question 12: Are there any other circumstances where customers cannot get the skills they need to enter employment under present and planned arrangements?

Question 13: How might we build on the foundations of the current rules so that they do not discourage unemployed people from volunteering as a deliberate back-to-work strategy, while retaining a clear focus on moving off welfare into paid employment?

Question 14: Do you agree that the WCA and WFHRA should be re-focused to increase work-related support?

Question 15: What expectations should there be of people undertaking the personalised support we will now be offering in the Work Related Activity Group? Could this include specific job search?

Question 16: How can we make Access to Work more responsive to the needs of claimants with fluctuating conditions – including mental health conditions?

Question 17: What additional flexibilities in the system or forms of support would claimants with multiple and complex problems need to enable them to meet the new work-focused requirements proposed in this Green Paper?

Question 18: What are the key features of an action planning approach that would best support employees and employers to take the steps for the employee to make a swifter return to work?

Question 20: What approach might be suitable to assist partners of benefit claimants who can work into employment?

Question 21: What are the next steps in enabling disabled people, reliably and easily, to access an individual budget if they want one? Should they include legislation to give people a right to ask for a budget or will the other levers the Government has got prove sufficient? What are the safeguards that should be built in? How can this be done?

Question 22: Is a system based on a single overarching benefit the right long-term aspiration? How could a simpler system be structured so as to meet varying needs and responsibilities?

Question 23: Would moving carers currently on IS onto JSA be a suitable way of helping them to access the support available to help combine caring with paid work or preparing for paid work?

Question 24: How might we reform Bereavement Benefit and IIDB to provide better support to help people adjust to their new circumstances while maintaining the work focus of the modern welfare state?

Question 25: Are lump sum payments a good way of meeting people's needs? Do they give people more choice and control? Could we make more use of them?

Question 26: What information would providers need to make the Right to Bid effective? How would the evaluation process need to work to give providers confidence that their ideas would be evaluated fairly and effectively? How do we get the balance right between rewarding those who come up with new ideas and the obligation to tender projects?

Question 27: What would the processes around contributing to commissioning and performance management look like in a range of different partnership areas? How might they best be managed to achieve the desired outcomes?

Question 28: How could a link be made to the radical proposals for the pilots set out in Chapter 3, which seek to reward providers for outcomes out of the benefit savings they achieve?

Question 29: How effective are current monitoring and evaluation arrangements for City Strategies?