



NORTH WEST EVENT ON DWP WORK PROGRAMME

Manchester – Wednesday 9th March 2011

As part of a wider North West network for public and private sector partners to discuss emerging economic development issues, the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) are pleased to invite you to a workshop to discuss the Coalition Government's Work Programme. Being led by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Work Programme replaces the host of previous interventions delivered by Jobcentre Plus and other partners with a single programme designed to tackle unemployment and worklessness.

A number of prime contractors have already been selected to sit on a framework for delivery of the Work Programme in the region with a tendering process currently in place to contract specific employment programmes to these prime contractors and a raft of sub-contractors in predominantly the commercial and social sectors.

The purpose of this event is to discuss the implications of the Work Programme for local government and other organisations in the North West with a particular focus upon:

- The Coalition Government's approach to welfare reform and worklessness;
- What the Work Programme means for prime contractors and the voluntary and community sector;
- The role of local government strategically in the Work Programme and in delivering the outcomes;

The workshop will include contributions from keynote speakers and an opportunity for you to discuss the role of local government in the work agenda. Following the workshop, CLES will write up and circulate a briefing note detailing the key discussion points and future actions.

The workshop will take place at the Mechanics Institute in Manchester on the morning of Wednesday 9th March 2011. Please find enclosed a map and directions.

The agenda for the workshop on the DWP Work Programme is detailed overleaf. If you would like to attend the workshop please confirm attendance by email to Paul Pinnington (paul.pinnington@gonw.gsi.gov.uk)

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Agenda

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| 9.30 – 10.00 | Registration and Coffee |
| 10.00 – 10.05 | Welcome from the Workshop Chair
<i>Sarah Longlands, Director of Policy, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)</i> |
| 10.05 – 10.10 | Year 3 of the NWIEP Economy Workstream
<i>Paul Pinnington, North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP)</i> |
| 10.10 – 10.25 | The emerging policy agenda
<i>David Higham, BIS Local Team</i> |
| 10.25 – 10.35 | Discussing the consequences of the Work Programme in the North West: the view of the prime contractor
<i>Paul Hardman, a4e</i> |
| 10.35 – 10.45 | Discussing the consequences of the Work Programme in the North West: the view of the voluntary and community sector
<i>John Hacking, NWSPV</i> |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | Questions and Answers |
| 11.00 – 11.10 | Break |
| 11.10 – 11.35 | Discussing the consequences of the Work Programme in the North West: the view of the local authority
<i>Heather Clark, Manchester City Council</i>
<i>Sean McGrath, Lancashire County Council</i> |
| 11.35 – 12.05 | Facilitated group discussion at tables
<i>The role of local government in engaging with and delivering the Work Programme</i> |
| 12.05 – 12.30 | Feedback from group discussions and action planning |
| 12.30 | Lunch |