

In work, better off?

An SCSH/SHEN members consultation on the Welfare Reform Green Paper

October 1st 2007 10.00am -1.00 pm

Venue: SCSH, 5th Floor Wellgate House, 200 Cowgate Edinburgh EH1 1NQ



With the publication of the Green Paper “*In work, better off: next steps to full employment*”, the DWP again looks to welfare reform to achieve an 80% labour market participation. This has the potential to deliver a more inclusive labour market, but at the same time may further exclude the 20% of people unable to find work. So the implementation of this policy could have far-reaching effects on the opportunities for and security of people at risk of homelessness.

SCSH and SHEN will outline the main provisions of the Green Paper, highlighting the potential problems and benefits of the proposals for people at risk of homelessness. We will be addressing four main areas of concern:

- *Can these proposals make work a sustainable route out of poverty, especially for people at risk of homelessness and at a distance from the job market? Effective interventions and real jobs are necessary for the process indicated in the Green Paper to work. Will the evidence from the New Futures Fund Initiative underpin this process? How will it work in Scotland alongside the provisions of Workforce Plus? Will enough sustainable jobs be available?*
- *What obstacles need to be overcome, and what safeguards are needed, to ensure stability for vulnerable workers? Barriers such as the 16 hour rule, tax credit eligibility and housing benefit tapers undermine long-term financial security for vulnerable workers. Will the Green Paper proposals deal with these challenges?*
- *Will welfare reforms effectively protect people outside the labour market from poverty and homelessness? The Green Paper envisages that 20% of potential workers will remain workless. Who will they be? What will happen to them? Will they receive adequate support in a welfare culture which is geared to labour market participation and getting people off benefits?*
- *The Green Paper proposes an enhanced role for the voluntary and private sectors. Will the proposed contracting provisions ensure that all homeless people have access to effective support and employability services? Will the contracting proposals produce good-quality, effective services? Will the measurement criteria be appropriate for our client group? Or could the voluntary sector find itself compromised by policing the benefits system?*

SHEN and SCSH invite you join us in considering the implications of this new Green Paper for our client group. We will follow this up with a formal response to the consultation on the Green Paper.

Please book using the form overleaf - the cost is £27.00 per place including lunch, and numbers are limited to 25 so please reserve your place as soon as possible.

booking form (please return by 26th September 2007)

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**THIS CONSULTATION IS OPEN TO SCSH AND SHEN MEMBERS*
THE COST IS £27.00 PER PERSON, INCLUDING LUNCH
PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY**

Name: _____

Position: _____ Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Post code _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email : _____ @ _____

Special Requirements: _____

Number of places required _____ @ £27.00 each

I enclose a crossed cheque payable to SCSH for £.....

Member of SCSH [] Member of SHEN []

*Information on membership can be obtained from the address below

Please return to: SCSH, 5th floor, Wellgate House, 200 Cowgate Edinburgh EH1 1NQ
Tel. 0131 226 4382 Fax 0131 225 4382 email: enquiries@scsh.org.uk