Dealing with the Impacts of Welfare Reform: The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting Households

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 2nd April 2014
10:15am – 4:30pm
Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Dealing with the Impacts of Welfare Reform:  
The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting Households

Overview

The Welfare Reform Act gained Royal Assent on 8th March 2012. Seeking to bring about radical change, the Act signalled the biggest overhaul of the welfare system for over 60 years.

A key feature of the Welfare Reform Act is Universal Credit (UC), which, by bringing together a collection of working-age benefits into a single streamlined payment, intends to help claimants and their families become more independent and, in the process, simplify the benefits system. Since 2010, other welfare reforms have been introduced between the beginning of the Coalition Government and the introduction of UC.

Against this background, in August 2013 the Local Government Association (LGA) published ‘The local impacts of welfare reform’, seeking to go beyond documenting the impact of individual reforms by attempting to analyse the ‘cumulative impact of all major reforms to benefits announced since the Coalition Government took office in May 2010, including Universal Credit’.

In addition, the LGA report recognises the need for the Government, local authorities, local partners and the local government associations to work together and share solutions in helping households mitigate the impacts of welfare reforms.

This special symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to examine the cumulative impacts of the various reforms announced since the Coalition Government took office, and explore how local authorities, central Government and their key local partners can work together to support households affected by welfare reforms.

Why Attend?

✓ Discuss the impact on working households and non-working households from welfare reform reductions
✓ Examine the key impacts from housing benefit reforms
✓ Understand the impacts of Universal Credit and whether it will increase household finances
✓ Explore whether local authorities should be given a clearer role in the commissioning of employment programmes
✓ Consider the importance of continuing effective sharing of practice between local and central Government to support households affected by welfare reforms

Who Should Attend?

✓ Local Authorities
✓ Central Government
✓ Local Government Associations
✓ Key Local Partners
✓ Universal Credit Governance and Steering/Working Groups
✓ Welfare Advisers and Officers
✓ Welfare Policy Leads
✓ Voluntary, Community and other Third Sector Organisations
✓ Benefits Advisers
✓ Benefits and Financial Support Representatives
✓ Benefit Fraud/Investigation Managers
✓ Benefit Administration Teams
✓ Employment Support Teams
✓ Heads of Revenues and Benefits
✓ Housing/Social Housing Staff and Landlords
✓ Housing Benefit Teams
✓ All Housing Sector Professionals
✓ Policy Managers
✓ Income Managers
✓ Neighbourhood Services Staff
✓ Directors of Funding and Finance
✓ Social Inclusion Officers
✓ Social Services Representatives
✓ Heads of Organisational Change
✓ Heads of Equality and Diversity
✓ Adults and Children’s Services Leads
✓ Welfare Groups
✓ Career Development Organisations
✓ Recruitment and Employment Professionals
✓ Jobcentre Plus Representatives
✓ Business Enterprise and Support Representatives
✓ Learning and Skills Councils Representatives

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ.

The Government’s welfare reforms represent the most fundamental changes to the benefits system in a generation. While the reforms are intended to reduce dependency on social security and to encourage employment, they also play a key part in the Government’s deficit reduction strategy – generating projected savings of more than £15 billion per year across Britain by the end of this Parliament.

However while the scale and impact of individual reforms have been documented and are generally understood, there have been no systematic attempts to understand the cumulative impacts of all of the Government’s reforms on claimants, their households and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, there have so far been only limited attempts to understand and to quantify the ability of claimants to deal with the impacts of reforms by finding work and/or reducing housing costs – and without these steps, the consequences of reforms could far outweigh their fiscal benefits…”

- ‘The local impacts of welfare reform - An assessment of cumulative impacts and mitigations’; Local Government Association, August 2013
Dealing with the Impacts of Welfare Reform:
The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting Households

Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Registration and Morning Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Chair’s Welcome and Introduction</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Panel Session One: Understanding the Cumulative Impacts of Welfare Reforms</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Assessing the impact of welfare reform reductions (excluding Universal Credit) on working households and non-working households</td>
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<td>• What are the key impacts from housing benefit reforms?</td>
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<td>• Mitigating impacts - how can losses from welfare reforms be reduced or avoided?</td>
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<td>• Impacts of Universal Credit – will it increase household finances?</td>
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<td>• Will Universal Credit impact positively on employment?</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Morning Refreshments</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>Networking Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>Panel Session Two: The Next Steps – The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting Households</td>
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<td>• Understanding the importance of continuing effective sharing of practice between local and central Government to support households affected by welfare reforms</td>
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<td>• Reducing the impact of welfare reforms on those with housing costs – the role of Government, local authorities and partners to build more affordable housing and will this reduce high private sector rents?</td>
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<td>• How can local authorities be supported to develop plans to support those impacted by ‘wider’ welfare reforms, such as households in work?</td>
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<td>• Should local authorities be given a clearer role in the commissioning of employment programmes?</td>
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<td>• Share ideas and best practice on ways welfare reform impacts should be monitored and households supported in the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15</td>
<td>Afternoon Refreshments</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments</td>
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<td>15:40</td>
<td>Networking Reception</td>
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**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

**Event Details**

Date: Wednesday 2nd April 2014
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

**Forthcoming Events**

- Fulfilling our Commitment to the Armed Services Community: The Challenge for Local Authorities
  4th February 2014
- The Future of Local Parking Enforcement
  5th February 2014
- The Next Steps to Eliminate Human Trafficking: Targeting Modern Day Slavery in the UK
  6th February 2014
- The Future Use of Digital and Social Media in Local Government and Public Sector Communications
  12th February 2014
- Prevention, Protection, Prosecution: The Next Steps to Tackle Hate Crime in Every Community
  13th February 2014
- Raising Animal Welfare Standards at the Time of Slaughter or Killing
  25th February 2014
- Reducing the Harm Associated with Problem Gambling: The Role of Local Government
  26th February 2014
- Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Improving Outcomes for Young Carers
  27th February 2014
- From High Street to High Growth: Shaping the Future of our Town Centres
  4th March 2014
- Turning Around ‘Troubled Families’: From Crisis to Co-ordinated Action
  5th March 2014
- Local Authorities and Cold Weather Planning: Protecting the Public from Winter Illness and Death
  11th March 2014
- Responding to the Needs of Girls and Young Women in the Penal System
  13th March 2014
- Fit for Purpose: Shaping the Future of General Practice Services
  25th March 2014
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Well-being: Transforming Service Delivery
  26th March 2014

**Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities**

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8630 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk
### Delegate Fees

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<th>Organisation Type</th>
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<th>Multi-Delegate Fee</th>
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<td>Local Voluntary/Community Organisations</td>
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<td>Academic/National Charities/NHS</td>
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<td>Central Government/Business Sector</td>
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### Terms & Conditions

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**Cancellations:** Cancellations are to be submitted in writing no later than 30 days prior to the event. All cancellations carry an administration charge of £100 + vat. Cancellations received within 30 days of the event will be subject to the full delegate fee; however a delegate substitute may be made if requested in writing. There will be no refunds for non-attendance. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice.

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### Invoice Details (if different from Contact Details)

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### Conference Materials

If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable).

### Methods of Payment

**Credit/Debit Card:** Call our payment line on 020 3137 8616

**BACS:** Bank: HSBC, Sort Code: 40-07-13, Account No: 22028328, Account Name: Public Policy Exchange Limited. Email BACS remittance to remittance@parlicentre.org

**Cheque:** Please ensure delegate name and organisation are on the back of the cheque, and make payable to: Public Policy Exchange, Accounts Department, Unit N0001, Westminster Business Square, 1-45 Durham Street, London SE11 5JH

### Total amount

Please tick as appropriate:

- [ ] Please invoice my organisation

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- [ ] Purchase Order No. (if applicable)

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**Signed**

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