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## Coalition Government - agrees plan for welfare reform

Submitted by Paul Convery on Wed, 12/05/2010 - 2:57pm  
in

The new coalition Government has published its joint plan which includes full implementation of the Conservative Party's manifesto for welfare reform.



The Coalition has agreed:

- "to end all existing welfare to work programmes and to create a single welfare to work programme to help all unemployed people get back into work."
- "that Jobseeker's Allowance claimants facing the most significant barriers to work should be referred to the aforementioned newly created welfare to work programme immediately, not after 12 months as is currently the case. JSA claimants aged under 25 should be referred to the programme after a maximum of six months."
- "to realign contracts with welfare to work service providers to reflect more closely the results they achieve in getting people back into work."
- "that the funding mechanism used by government to finance welfare to work programmes should be reformed to reflect the fact that initial investment delivers later savings in lower benefit expenditure."
- "that receipt of benefits for those able to work should be conditional on the willingness to work."

The full text of the agreement between the two parties [is published here](http://www.conservatives.com/News/News_stories/2010/05/Coalition_Agreement_published.aspx) ([http://www.conservatives.com/News/News\\_stories/2010/05/Coalition\\_Agreement\\_published.aspx](http://www.conservatives.com/News/News_stories/2010/05/Coalition_Agreement_published.aspx)) by the Conservative Party.

In other announcements, the DWP Ministerial team is headed by Ian Duncan Smith as Secretary of State with Chris Grayling and Steve Webb as Ministers of State. Grayling was formerly a shadow Cabinet member covering home affairs. Webb has been a Lib Dem spokesman on social security and was a distinguished academic specialising in social security and pensions.

Adult skills remains within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills where Lib Dem Vince Cable has been appointed Secretary of State. David Willetts becomes "Minister of State (Universities and Science)" with an "also attending Cabinet" ranking. Other appointments to junior posts will be announced in the next day.

The two key policy documents published by the Conservatives are attached below. These are (a) the relevant pages from the Manifesto; (b) a further policy paper ("A new welfare contract") which adds further detail about a stricter benefit entitlement regime.

Attachment	Size
<a href="http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/conservative_manifesto_2010_extract1_0.pdf">conservative manifesto 2010 extract1.pdf</a> ( <a href="http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/conservative_manifesto_2010_extract1_0.pdf">http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/conservative_manifesto_2010_extract1_0.pdf</a> )	51.15 KB
<a href="http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/a_new_welfare_contract.pdf">a new welfare contract.pdf</a> ( <a href="http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/a_new_welfare_contract.pdf">http://indusdelta.co.uk/sites/indusdelta.co.uk/files/a_new_welfare_contract.pdf</a> )	171.75 KB

## Comments

**Submitted by highpark1 on Wed, 12/05/2010 - 9:45pm.**

sounds interesting, whats it mean

**Submitted by Adam on Thu, 13/05/2010 - 10:28am.**

Sounds like the free ride for welfare to work providers is shortly coming to an end.

**Submitted by Dangerboy on Thu, 13/05/2010 - 4:05pm.**

Adam, it's astonishing how totally wrong you can be about something with such absolute certainty. Free ride? Hardly. This is a tough industry where many providers are doing excellent work to support people into work and keep their head above water. Most of the problems in this industry are caused by flawed procurement which underpays for outcomes, thus encouraging creaming and parking. Better funded programmes is what providers need to support customers, not a race to the bottom.

**Submitted by Prometheus on Fri, 14/05/2010 - 9:45am.**

Adam..... You are absolutely correct.

Now that the Free Ride is over, where any unemployed candidate assigned to some inappropriate work placement without merit may be promoted as being a "Positive Outcome" to the W2W Provider (hence sanctifying its delusion that it was helping people back to work - not forgetting the possible financial implications in terms of bonus payments from Job Centre Plus), Job Centre Plus may reclaim territory which was previously within its bounds. I am sure that staff within the soon to be defunct W2W agencies may soon re-enter the mainstream Job Centre Plus organisation, and apply for jobs at a comparable level to their previous status as Admin Clerks - irrespective of whether (as in various W2W Providers) they self-appointed themselves with the baloney title of Consultant.

Good Riddance to W2W Providers.

**Submitted by honeylonglegz on Fri, 14/05/2010 - 11:19am.**

I am not sure Adam or Prometheus have read the article properly. It means a significant growth in the activities of welfare providers - both in terms of the time they engage with customers - straight away and at 6 months (earlier than FND) - and also scale - as the work programme brings together a number of other smaller programmes. It