



DWP Autumn Performance Report 2007

Progress against Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

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Foreword by the Secretary of State

The Government is committed to building a fair, prosperous and, above all, a cohesive society with social justice as its bedrock and foundation.

A society in which child poverty has been eradicated, in which everyone who can work is expected to contribute to national prosperity and share in it, those who can't are supported and those who have retired are able to live a full and active life free from the fear of financial insecurity.

The Public Service Agreement targets set out in this report are the practical outworking of this Department's commitment to deliver on that hugely challenging agenda.

Full employment is at the heart of our anti poverty strategy and our Green Paper 'In Work Better Off', set out the next phase of radical welfare reform.

We will build on the success of the New Deal with a more flexible, responsive and personally tailored programme for jobseekers who need the most help.

At the heart of the system will be a strengthened Jobcentre Plus, an outstanding example of what a transformed public service can achieve.

Jobcentre Plus has a vast collective experience that will be even more effective when frontline advisers are given greater discretion to get the best outcomes for our customers.

We will also make better use of specialist support with a much enhanced role for the private and voluntary sectors working with the most disadvantaged customers.

Our commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020 stands and while, as this report shows, there is much to be done we cannot and will not turn away from the challenge.

This Department will play its role alongside the Department for Children, Schools and Families to co-ordinate and develop policy with HM Treasury and across Government to share expertise, join up resources and bring a strategic overview to this crucial area of work.

The legislative process will soon be complete that will see a fairer and simpler parent and child focused system for child maintenance introduced.

This will help towards our goal of eradicating child poverty with a greater incentive for parents to seek and to pay maintenance while the assurance that there will be a satisfactory child maintenance package in place could make all the difference to a lone parent who wants to make the transition from benefit dependency into work.

At the other end of the age spectrum the 'Actively Aging' are on the move: last year people over 50 accounted for well over half the growth in UK employment.

While the changing demographics open up great opportunities, they also present immense challenges, not least in how we all prepare for a future in which the ratio of those working to those in retirement will change dramatically.

The Pensions Bill will renew the social contract for retirement based on shared responsibility: employers through compulsory contributions into a pension scheme; employees through automatic enrolment in a scheme and Government responsibility, with a guaranteed basic standard of living through a state pension linked to earnings.

These reforms present a fair, sustainable solution that encourages people to take responsibility for building a comfortable retirement income for themselves.

This report shows the progress that has been made in meeting the Department's targets and what has to be done.

What is not on the face of this report but which I have experienced at first hand is the professionalism, expertise and dedication of the people who are the Department for Work and Pensions and who are committed to help us achieve our goals.



Peter Hain

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

The Department's Ministers



The Right Honourable Peter Hain MP

Secretary of State



Caroline Flint MP

Minister of State for
Employment and
Welfare Reform



Mike O'Brien MP

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**Lord McKenzie of
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**Anne McGuire
MP**

Minister for Disabled
People