

Housing, Social Exclusion and Welfare Reform: Safeguarding Public Services from the Impact of the Credit Crunch

"The Government believes that people want public services that are responsive to their concerns, treat people fairly and are good value for money. The Government's legislative and non-legislative programmes will empower people to take control of their lives and their communities."

— Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister, May 2008

"You should know that the measures we are taking are not at the expense of better public services....Our commitment to our investment in schools and hospitals and to ensuring fairness is as strong as ever. If you are a saver, a homeowner, an entrepreneur, a family struggling to get by - I want you to know we are doing this for you."

— Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister, October 2008

Event Details

Title: **Housing, Social Exclusion and Welfare Reform: Safeguarding Public Services from the Impact of the Credit Crunch**

Date: Wednesday 10th December 2008

Time: 10:00am — 4:15pm
(followed by networking drinks)

Venue: Holiday Inn Regents Park, London

Organiser

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, 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 policy development across all areas of public policy.

Overview

In May, the Prime Minister unveiled the Government's draft legislative programme for the coming year in Parliament; the eighteen bills were underpinned by the key themes of *Economic Stability, Fairness* and *Improving Public Services*.

Recently, the true severity of the credit crunch and global economic downturn has presented a new financial reality for businesses, local authorities and ordinary families alike. With the bleak outlook for the housing market and unemployment figures rising, the burden on public services and the welfare system is expected to increase significantly and will inevitably test the resilience of both existing Public Service Agreements and the Government's new proposals for the year ahead. As the political spotlight focuses on public finances and their capacity to weather the economic storm, how can we ensure that this is not at the expense of investment in public services or the delivery of the Government's promised reform agenda?

This special one-day conference, hosted by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies*, offers a timely opportunity for local practitioners, stakeholders and civil servants to assess the Government's priorities for public services in the current stark economic climate. Participants will assess how the Government's welfare, employment and housing reform proposals will respond to the impact of the credit crunch and consider how the Government's long-term social exclusion action plan will be safeguarded through these turbulent times. Some of the key themes to be addressed by the conference include:

- Legislation and Government Policy Priorities for the Year Ahead
- The Implications of the Welfare Reform Bill for Local Authorities
- Safeguarding the Five Guiding Principles of the Social Exclusion Action Plan
- Implications of the Collapse of the Housing Market and Increased Demand for Social Housing

Delegates will have the opportunity to debate, share ideas and network with colleagues from across the public service delivery, local authority and government landscape.

Who should attend?

Local Authority Housing Officers & Managers, Social Exclusion & Neighbourhood Renewal Teams, Local Authority Officers & Councillors, Housing Organisations, Anti-Poverty Campaigners, Housing Advice Officer, Homelessness Assessment & Prevention Officers, Housing Associations, Tenants' & Residents' Associations, Benefits Officers, Directors of Children's Services, Children & Families Services Officers, Sure Start, Children's Trusts & Children's Centres, Health, Education & Social Care Providers, Social Workers, Asylum Team Managers, NHS Trusts & PCTs, Welfare Rights Organisations, Employment Training/Skills Organisations, Employers, DWP, DCSF, JobcentrePlus, Central Government Departments & Agencies, Equality & Diversity Practitioners, Third Sector, Academics/Researchers, Trade Unions, Community Organisations, Financial Sector