



Individual Employment
Support Conference



Individual Employment Support Conference Summary

QE2 Conference Centre

8 September 2008

Remploy held a one day conference on the 8th of September 2008 to facilitate discussion and collaborative working on Welfare to Work, focusing particularly on Flexible New Deal. The conference was attended by a range of professionals from the provider and commissioning areas.

The conference also included presentation of the findings of the Social Market Foundation (SMF) study entitled "The Flexible New Deal – Making it Work". This study, supported by Remploy can be found at www.smf.co.uk/assets/files/publications/SMF_Flexible_New_Deal.pdf.

The conference programme included the following topics:

- Government Aspirations for New Contracts – Rt Hon Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform
- The Opposition Perspective – Mark Harper, MP, Shadow Minister for Disabled People
- Findings of the SMF Research Report – Ian Mulheirn, Chief Economist, SMF
- The Client Perspective from:
 - Wendy Mitchell, Policy & Public Affairs Advisor, Turning Point
 - Bobby Cummines, CEO, Unlock
 - Beth Carruthers, Director - Employment Services, Remploy

There was also a choice of 3 breakout sessions from which delegates could choose one of the following:

- How can we ensure an individual exercises informed choice?
- Motivation and rewards for specialist providers
- Contract structure to make it happen

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Beth Carruthers, Director - Employment Services, closed the event by summarising the 3 main themes that emerged during the day:

1. Respect for the individual

- By respecting the needs of individuals, we will design better services that are more personalised and more accessible
- We must also show mutual respect for prime contractors and sub-contractors, valuing what they have to offer

2. Commitment to collaborative working

- We must be dedicated in finding ways to overcome barriers to collaboration and move to a more mature and productive relationship and mutual success
- We should aim to establish trust right through the provision chain, to include: the individual being supported, the prime contractor, DWP and employers

3. Commitment to learning

- The SMF report “The Flexible New Deal – Making it work” has been critical in helping us to learn about some of the key issues around commissioning
- As we move into the new contracting phase over the next 5-7 years, we must continue with the good start we’ve made to continue to work collaboratively to make sure that the people who need our help get it