



## **The Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement**

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review includes a Public Service Agreement (PSA) aimed at reducing social exclusion among the most vulnerable adults. The PSA will help to ensure that the most at-risk individuals are given the opportunity to get back onto the path to success, and sets out some key outcome targets that the Government and its partners are committed to achieving over the coming three-year spending period.

### **What is a PSA?**

PSAs reflect the Government's high-level priorities. They set out the specific improvements that the Government wants to achieve and the performance indicators that will be used to measure progress. Each PSA is underpinned by a Delivery Agreement which outlines how improvements will be achieved and who will be accountable for delivery.

The Socially Excluded Adults PSA is one of around 30 PSAs agreed across the whole of government, and is the first agreement that has focused specifically on the needs of the most vulnerable adults.

### **The Core Vision**

The PSA aims to ensure that the most socially excluded adults are offered the chance to get back on a path to a more successful life, by increasing the proportion of at-risk individuals in:

- settled accommodation; and
- employment, education or training.

A home and a job are the core foundations of normal, everyday life which the majority of people take for granted. The Government wants to extend this expectation and aspiration to the most excluded, for whom a settled home and the opportunity to work can often seem out of reach.

The PSA focuses on four client groups who are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of disadvantage and who may be negotiating a difficult transition such as leaving prison or long-term care. These two factors make them particularly at risk



of falling into persistent exclusion, but also mean that they are in contact with the services that could and should make a difference. The four groups are:

- Care leavers
- Offenders under probation supervision
- Adults with secondary mental health problems
- Adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities

Adults with multiple needs are typically in contact with a range of services, but tend to benefit less from the support they receive because their lives and engagement with these services are too chaotic. Effective inter-agency working is therefore crucial in ensuring a more coherent and personalised response to their wider needs.

#### How will the PSA help?

- **Encourage prevention and early intervention**, by focusing on transition points when individuals can be helped to avoid long-term exclusion
- **Promote joint working**, by setting out a shared cross-government commitment to tackling exclusion
- **Focus resources**, by sending a clear signal that helping these groups is a government priority
- **Incentivise and drive delivery**, through a clear performance management framework for tackling social exclusion among adults

#### The Role of Local Authorities and Local Area Agreements

Local authorities and their partners play a vital role in tackling social exclusion, and the performance indicators for the Socially Excluded Adults PSA will be included in the national indicator set for local government. They will therefore be among the indicators from which areas will choose in developing targets for their Local Area Agreements (LAA).

In negotiating LAAs with Government Offices, Local Strategic Partnerships are strongly encouraged to consider the needs of vulnerable groups, along with the wider benefits of a strategic focus on tackling exclusion. As well as improving the



life chances and quality of life of vulnerable individuals and their families, prioritising the PSA outcomes can also:

- lead to significant savings in the downstream costs associated with long-term and persistent exclusion;
- contribute to the achievement of wider priority outcomes, such as reducing reoffending and tackling worklessness;
- support improved community cohesion by addressing the negative external effects of a small number of highly excluded individuals; and
- provide an impetus for improved joint working with service providers such as probation and mental health trusts, and with the third sector.

### **The Role of the Social Exclusion Task Force**

Development of the cross-government PSA has been led by the Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF) in the Cabinet Office, working in collaboration with the departments and stakeholders who will lead delivery. As part of the Government's new performance framework, the PSA is an important element of the SETF's work in taking forward some key system reforms designed to improve service delivery for the most excluded.

The SETF will support the delivery of the PSA by:

- producing guidance for Government Offices and local areas;
- providing baseline data to help local areas to identify key priorities around social exclusion;
- holding a series of regional workshops on the PSA; and
- providing ongoing advice and support for local areas.

The Socially Excluded Adults PSA is part of a package of measures agreed across the Comprehensive Spending Review aimed at tackling disadvantage and ensuring fairness and opportunity for all.

## About the Social Exclusion Task Force

The SETF was created in June 2006 to extend opportunity to the least advantaged so that they enjoy more of the opportunities and choices that the rest of society takes for granted. We work across government and beyond to develop policies to improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged.

*Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion* was published in September 2006 and sets out a renewed drive to improve the opportunities for those at highest risk of entrenched and long-term poverty and exclusion.

**More information for local areas** is available on our website:  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social\\_exclusion\\_task\\_force](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force)

**The PSA Delivery Agreement and further information on the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review** are available from the Treasury website:  
[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

**For any questions or for more information on the PSA**, please contact the SETF at: [setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

