

Section IV: The future

Chapter 7: Next steps

7.1 This report is the next chapter in the Government's attack on the root causes of deep social exclusion, extending opportunity to more people in society than ever before. Tremendous progress has been made since 1997 in tackling wider poverty and disadvantage and many millions of people have benefited. It is precisely because of this success that the most disadvantaged and persistently excluded groups have become more visible. It has also become apparent that what works for the vast majority of disadvantaged groups might not work for the most hard-to-reach individuals.

7.2 This Government, and many key stakeholders, are convinced that early intervention is often more cost-effective; that hard-to-reach groups can be identified; and that effective interventions for these groups do exist. The challenge we therefore face and address in this Action Plan is how to shift the

balance away from reaction and more towards early identification and intervention.

7.3 As set out in this Action Plan, Government action to tackle deep social exclusion will be guided by five guiding principles:

- better identification and early intervention;
- systematic identification of what works;
- better multi-agency working;
- personalisation, and rights and responsibilities where appropriate; and
- supporting achievement and managing underperformance.

7.4 As the table below sets out, there are many other important chapters that will follow the Action Plan over the coming year. The Social Exclusion Task Force will work closely with all departments to ensure that the needs and the unique challenges of the most socially excluded are addressed.

Table 7.1: Next steps

Publication	Lead dept	Timing
Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. This will have a particular focus on areas with high rates and on tackling the underlying causes of teenage pregnancy.	DfES	Sept 06
National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. This Plan is submitted to the EU Commission every three years and sets out how each EU member state is making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty.	DWP	Sept 06
Opportunity for All. This is the Government's annual report measuring success in tackling poverty and social exclusion.	DWP	Oct 06
Children in Care Green Paper. This will explore how we can further improve outcomes for this high-risk group, including proposals on individual budget-holding arrangements.	DfES	Oct 06

Publication	Lead dept	Timing
Local Government White Paper. This will aim to give local areas the powers they need to create cohesive, thriving, sustainable communities. Empowering local communities and ensuring powers are devolved to the right level are central to the Government's wider aim of democratic renewal.	DCLG	Autumn 06
Leitch Review. This will set out progress and further measures to address the poor lifetime prospects of those with few qualifications and skills.	HMT (independent review)	End 06
Comprehensive Spending Review. This is a long-term and fundamental review of government expenditure and will cover departmental allocations for the next three years. It will also include detailed reviews on specific cross-cutting issues. Relevant reviews include a children and young people's policy review looking at how services for children and young people and their families can build on the three principles identified in <i>Support for parents, the best start for children – rights and responsibilities, progressive universalism and prevention</i> ; and also a review on mental health and employment outcomes.	HMT	Summer 07
10-year Strategic Review of Social Exclusion. This will analyse the long-term drivers of social exclusion and identify future trends and the action needed to respond to them.	SETF	Summer 07
Social Exclusion Action Plan Progress Report. This will set out further details and early results from the pilots and demonstration projects; the conclusions of stakeholder discussions; and policy changes and investments.	SETF	Summer 07

7.5 This Government will leave no one behind. In this period of unprecedented economic growth and social progress, our task is to further extend the opportunities enjoyed by the vast majority of people in the UK today to those whose lives have been characterised by deprivation and exclusion. With our shared vision and approach, coupled with meaningful partnership between delivery agencies and people in need, we can, and must, tackle the root causes of persistent deprivation in this country.

7.6 But social exclusion cannot be addressed by government alone. The wider community has a key role to play too. The care system is a good example of ordinary citizens taking up a social challenge by fostering, and sometimes adopting, while progressive employers sometimes provide valuable employment opportunities to people with long-term mental health challenges. But most of all, of course, people suffering social exclusion, and those immediately around them, must want to progress too by seizing the opportunities that are available to them.

How to comment on the Social Exclusion Action Plan

7.7 This Action Plan signals our direction of travel. We want to hear from you about its contents.

7.8 In particular we would welcome your comments on the principles and actions within the Plan. We would particularly welcome comments from people working on the ground delivering services, and want to hear about innovative examples we can use in taking forward this important work. We also reiterate our invitation in Chapter 3 for local areas to come forward with innovative and radical proposals for provision around those most at risk.

7.9 Please contact us at:

- by email: setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk
- by post: Social Exclusion Action Plan
Prime Minister's Strategy Unit
Room 4.17
Admiralty Arch
The Mall
London SW1A 2WH