

ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

BREAKDOWN OF MAIN POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RESPONSES TO PROPOSALS ON THREE HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES OF FINANCIAL EXCLUSION; CAPACITY BUILDING; AND INCREASING EMPLOYMENT

DO YOU AGREE THAT THE THREE HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES OF FINANCIAL EXCLUSION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND INCREASING EMPLOYMENT ARE APPROPRIATE?

- INCREASING EMPLOYMENT

POSITIVE

Summary of <u>main emerging views</u> received on: DO YOU AGREE THAT INCREASING EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE A KEY PRIORITY FOCUS	
Summary of comments	Approximate Level of Support:
Agree to priority focus on increasing employment, in addition to that of financial exclusion and capacity building, some pointing out should not be the only ones – see Other Areas section.	32
Slight disagreement with approach, indicating that there was too much focus on labour market driven outcomes.	3
Specific Increasing Employment Target: To reduce number of working age people in workless households	
Summary of comments	Approximate Level of Support:
<p>Agree to target, indicating that low income needs to be tackled; and some suggestions how the target can be achieved, to include for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase national minimum wage; • Lower taxation for low income families; • Employers to have a more proactive role 	11

As with capacity building targets, some recognition for mentoring / family support needed to enhance lack of social skills to embrace training; provision of advocacy and quality placement programmes for young people.	2
Other barriers considered were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment may not be an option for carers due to caring responsibilities; • Low wage levels • Lack of appropriate affordable reliable transport infrastructure • Tax thresholds • Child and other benefit rates • Provision of affordable accessible childcare in disadvantaged areas. 	5
Specific Increasing Employment Target: Improve labour market position of most disadvantaged wards	
Summary of comments	Approximate Level of Support:
Agree with target, with some suggestion to consider accessing opportunities, eg transport and childcare provision, as well as personal safety issues relating to sectarian geography and location of jobs. It has also been highlighted that the needs of communities of interest, not solely in geographical terms, should be considered.	8
Specific Increasing Employment Target: Reduce differences in economic inactivity and employment rates between RCs and Ps; men and women; and people with and without a disability	
Summary of comments	Approximate Level of Support:
Agree with target, with some similar suggestions to other related targets on how it could be achieved, eg:	14

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable childcare provision • Parenting support • Improved Transport provision <p>It has also been suggested that the Regional Review of Mental Health & Learning Disability and the Social Exclusion in Mental Health report could be drawn upon.</p>	
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NEGATIVE

<p>Summary of <u>main emerging views</u> received on: DO YOU AGREE THAT INCREASING EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE A KEY PRIORITY FOCUS</p>	
<p>Summary of comments.</p>	<p>Approximate Level of Support:</p>
<p>None specific</p>	