



Looking to the Future

BASE
2008 Conference
& Annual General Meeting

10-11 September 2008
Northumbria University
Newcastle City Campus East
Newcastle upon Tyne

Speakers include



Rt Hon James Purnell MP
Secretary of State for Work
and Pensions
(invited)



Mark Harper MP
Shadow Minister for Disabled
People

The British Association for Supported Employment

BASE was formed to promote supported employment as the most effective and direct route to open paid employment for people with disabilities and/or other economic disadvantage.

With over 200 member organisations across Britain, BASE is a powerful and united voice for its members. BASE represents and supports the supported employment sector, informing its members' activities through regional forums, newsletters, national conferences and its website. The association is now recognised as a key stakeholder within the disability employment sector.

The last year has seen many policy initiatives that are likely to have a great impact on our sector. BASE has represented the views of members within the DWP's review of disability employment programmes and the LSC strategy, Learning for Living and Work. As a member of the Jobcentre Plus Provider Forum, BASE is active in representing the interests of local provider services.

Our 2008 conference offers another strong programme of workshops and speakers, reflecting the wide range of topics and issues pertinent to supported employment agencies across the country.

The increasing personalisation of services strikes a welcome chord with the supported employment model, whose values and principles have long championed individualised approaches. The developing strategy for mental health and employment and Public Service Agreement 16

should offer opportunities to integrate support for those further away from the labour market.

The conference is intended to inform and raise awareness of policy initiatives and best practice across the country. It offers a key opportunity to network with a wide variety of organisations and discuss the delivery of supported employment provision as a high quality and cost effective means of service delivery for people with disabilities or other economic disadvantage.

BASE Annual General Meeting

BASE will be holding its AGM on the afternoon of 10 September. The AGM is open to members only.

Please ensure that your membership is up to date to guarantee entry. The remainder of the conference is open to non-members.

Who is the conference aimed at?

- Supported Employment personnel
- Jobcentre Plus staff
- Health and Local Authority commissioners
- Learning and Skills Councils and Connexions staff
- Policy makers and strategists
- Welfare to Work co-ordinators

This conference provides a unique opportunity for delegates to:

- listen to, and question, Government policy
- discuss today's issues in workshops with experienced practitioners
- hear about the best in Supported Employment practice

Why not join us?

Full membership of BASE is open to any organisation delivering supported employment services. In addition, associate membership is available for organisations that support the aims of BASE whilst not delivering direct support into employment. Membership brings a range of benefits including discounted delegate fees at events, access to our websites pages and participation in our regional network activities. For further information please contact us at membership@base-uk.org



Programme

Day One

Wednesday 10 September

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30 Welcome from the Vice Chancellor of Northumbria University, Professor Andrew Wathey

10.00 **Keynote speaker: (invited)**
James Purnell MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



10.45 Break

11.10 **Workshop session 1**

12.20 Lunch

1.30 **Workshop Session 2**

2.45 **Workshop session 3**

4.00 Refreshments

4.30 **BASE Annual General Meeting**

7.00 **Conference Reception**
hosted by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cllr David Leslie Wood in the Assembly Rooms, followed by

8.00 **Conference Dinner**

Day Two

Thursday 11 September

9.15 Welcome and refreshments

9.30 **Workshop session 4**

10.45 Break

11.15 **Keynote speaker:**
Mark Harper MP
Shadow Minister for Disabled People



12.00 Lunch

1.15 **Keynote speaker:**

To be confirmed

2.00 **Workshop session 5**

3.15 **Plenary**

3.45 **Close and refreshments**

In addition, there will be an exhibition of display stands on view

Workshops

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- "Getting a Life" Project
- Holistic Interventions and Employment Outcomes
- Supported Businesses
- The customer perspective
- Individual Placement and Support
- Supporting business to retain staff
- Mental Health and employment
- Mindful Employer
- Lessons from changes to the Australian Welfare State
- Social Enterprise
- Partnership with education
- Individualised budgets

Please note that BASE reserves the right to change the programme and workshop themes without notice.



Speaker Biographies



James Purnell Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

James Purnell was appointed Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in January 2008 following the resignation of Peter Hain. He was previously Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, a position he took in June 2007, as part of Gordon Brown's first Cabinet.

Prior to this, he was Minister of State for Pensions Reform at the Department of Work and Pensions.

Previously, he had been Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport since May 2005, and, before this, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Ruth Kelly MP in the Cabinet Office. He joined the Government as Assistant Whip in December 2004.

Before entering Parliament in 2001, he was Head of Corporate Planning at the BBC (1995-1997) and then worked as a special adviser on culture, media, sport and the knowledge economy for the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, from 1997 to 2001. He was born in 1970 in London and went to university at Balliol College, Oxford.



Mark Harper MP Shadow Minister for Disabled People

Mark was educated at the Headlands School, Swindon College and Brasenose College, University of Oxford. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG in 1995, and worked for Intel Corporation in a variety of roles including finance, business operations and marketing until re-selected as Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for the Forest of Dean in July 2002. Elected as Member of Parliament for the Forest of Dean in May 2005, he was appointed Shadow Minister for Defence in December 2005 and became a Shadow Minister for Disabled People in July 2007.

As Conservative policy is to simplify the assessment process to make it easier for disabled people to access benefits and services by reducing the complexity of the assessment

processes that they have to go through to access benefits and services in order to live independently, Mark has recently visited Work Directions, a leading provider that helps deliver support to the long-term unemployed, single parents, and unemployed people with mental health issues or disabilities, and assists them to move off benefits and into suitable, sustainable jobs, where he saw first hand the work they do in supporting individuals into suitable and sustainable employment.

Since taking up office, Mark has called on the Government to confirm their ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. More than a year after signing the Convention the Government has still not been able to confirm ratification of the Convention.

Mark is married to Margaret, has two Labradors, Cara and Darci, and keeps fit by walking them in the Forest near his home. Mark also enjoys travelling, cooking and the cinema, especially supporting the local cinemas in Coleford and Cinderford.

Conference Registration Form

Please complete one form per delegate,
using photocopies where necessary and return to:

BASE Secretariat
Unit 26
Sevenside Trading Estate
Sudmeadow Road
Hempstead
Gloucester, GL2 5HS

Enquiries: 08445 617445
Email: events@base-uk.org
Fax: 08445 617441



Tick if you require confirmation of receipt.

Please book me a place at the conference

£245.00 + VAT (£287.88) Members £350.00 + VAT (£411.25) Non-Members (please tick the appropriate box)

Name _____ Position _____

Organisation _____ Email _____

Address _____ (please supply an email address wherever possible)

Telephone _____

Facsimile _____

**Do you have any access, dietary or communication needs that we need to be aware of?
If so please describe them:**

Please note that BSL signers will be available for the main speeches. Individual delegates may want to fund their own interpreters for the workshops and funding may be available for delegates through the Access to Work scheme.

Please note that workshop choices are made at the conference.

Exhibition Space

There will be some exhibition space available at no charge to BASE members. This is limited so please contact us if you wish to bring a stand or display.

Payment Details (please tick payment method)

Cheque:

I enclose a crossed cheque made payable to the 'British Association for Supported Employment'.

Invoice:

Please send an invoice. Purchase Order No: _____
(Please note this payment option is available to public sector organisations only)

Please forward the invoice to the following address: _____
(if different to delegates address)

Terms & Conditions

Conference Fee: Payment must be received by the date of the conference. The discount member rate is available only for paid up members of the British Association for Supported Employment, and only applies if payment is received in full by 10 September 2008.

Accommodation: Accommodation is not included in the conference fee.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing and will be subject to a charge. If we receive the cancellation before 31 July 2008 a charge of 50% will be retained. If we receive a cancellation on or after this date the full fee must be paid. We are happy to accept a substitute delegate if the original delegate is unable to attend.

I confirm that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions:

Authorised Signature _____ Date _____

Position _____

The Venue

This year's BASE conference takes place in the recently completed award winning City Campus East building of the University of Northumbria in Newcastle.

Northumbria University's City Campus) is served by excellent public transport. See http://northumbria.ac.uk/brochure/visit/campus_branch/trav_to_ncl/?view=Standard

Road links

The City of Newcastle is reached by the A1(M) from London in the south and Edinburgh in the north and the M6 from the south-west and west to Carlisle. There is very little public parking available on the campus, so it is advisable to drive into John Dobson Street where you will find a large NCP car park on the left. The public car parks at John Dobson Street, New Bridge Street, Eldon Square and Eldon Gardens are all within walking distance of the City Campus.

Rail Links

Newcastle Central Station, on the main east coast line, provides excellent rail links to London, Edinburgh and other cities throughout Britain. The station is about 20 minutes walk from the City Campus or five minutes by Metro (alighting at Haymarket Metro Station which is a three minute walk from the City Campus).

Coach Links

National Express operates a regular coach service to and from their Newcastle Central Bus Station, which is about five minutes walk from the Central Railway Station from which you can get a Metro to the Haymarket.

Air Links

Newcastle International Airport operates domestic services to major cities including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Aberdeen and Glasgow. There is a Metro station in the airport terminal building.



Accommodation

We've teamed up with Newcastle Gateshead Convention Bureau to offer you a range of affordable accommodation, all within walking distance of the conference. This includes discounted accommodation on the university campus itself.

Booking online is straightforward on: <https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/NGIBASE>

Our sponsors

Centre For Public Policy, Northumbria University

The Centre for Public Policy (CPP) is a freestanding self-funding research centre within the School of Arts and Social Sciences. CPP was officially launched in September 2002 by the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford, Minister of State for Local Government and the Regions. It was the first research centre in the North East to specifically focus on public policy and governance issues.

Newcastle City Council

The City Council manages services for a population of around 260,000 people. Currently held by the Liberal Democrat Party, the City Council wants to create a vibrant, inclusive, safe, sustainable and modern European city by:

- building on the heritage, cultural and economic strengths of Newcastle and the sense of identity and civic pride of its people.
- improving the quality of life for its people in their communities and playing a leading role in the sustainable growth and prosperity of the region.

