

jobs will benefit the individual and the local community and will pay at least the national minimum wage.

The new **Work-focused training** is designed to help people into a sustainable job by offering training towards a level 2 or 3 qualification (or in exceptional circumstances to a Skills for Life qualification). In England, 40,000 new training places will be delivered flexibly in subject areas that are relevant to the local job market. This full-time training option will be tailored to meet individual needs including both vocational skill needs and soft employability skills. Work is in hand with the Devolved Administrations in Scotland & Wales to determine the Work-focused training that will be on offer in those countries.

The **Community Task Force** will offer work experience placements of benefit to the community, designed to enhance the employability and work related skills of participants. Available nationally, the task force will be flexible and tailored to customer circumstances. The aim is for a 25 hours a week placement, plus five hours a week supplementary support activity.


Flexible New Deal (FND) will be introduced from October and will modernise the existing New Deals for customers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. The key aim of FND is to help long term unemployed people to prepare for, find and remain in work. The new service will be delivered by specialist back to work providers, which in this District will be Seetec and Four Star.

FND will deliver innovative and flexible support. Providers will work with each customer to decide the best way to help them into sustained employment, and will offer support tailored to the needs of the individual. FND will be a mandatory 12 month programme for customers who have been claiming JSA for 12 months. The programme includes a mandatory 4 week period of work-related activity for those who do not move into jobs, to increase their chances of finding work.

From 26 October 2009 there are changes for **Lone Parent** claimants. Those whose youngest child is 10 years old or more will no longer receive Income Support purely because they are a lone parent. This is an extension of policy introduced for lone parents with youngest child 12 years old or more in November 2008. This is in line with the Government policy that work for parents is the best route out of poverty for children, so parents with older children should look for work.

Some aspects of this wide-ranging package of measures will be rolled out across the UK over time. Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect of this package as well as how and when it will be available for your constituents.

Yours sincerely,



Zanny Lomas on behalf of
Jon Wright
District Manager