

Partnership working to give better outcomes for local people

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Agenda

- The 'working together' group
 - Who we are
 - What we do
 - How we do it
 - What difference has it made
- Questions



Our partnership approach

Monthly meetings held to discuss common issues with the following partners...



Department for Work and Pensions



Challenges we faced...

- Cuts to Local Housing Allowance
- Under occupation charges in social sector
- Council Tax Support
- The Benefit Cap
- Disability benefit changes
- Other benefit changes
- Recession/economic climate
- Cuts to our services



Monthly meetings

- Well attended (and growing)
- Share information
- Problem solving – action focussed
- Structured and built on trust
- A focus is maintained on the outcomes of welfare reform

Positive outcomes

- Shared communication, casework, pop-up shops
- Maximise resources to help local people
 - CAB award (best local partnership) for DHP campaign
 - Full DHP allocation spent
- Joint work on other initiatives
 - Direct payments

Partnership work has also included

- Joint strategy and action plan
- Shared communication
- Sharing data between CCC and Housing Associations
- Shared publicity
- Early advice and support
- Case conferences
- Joint bids – Local Support Services



And on sanctions.....

- Part of action plan
- Draft report on sanctions was circulated and discussed
- Constructive local meetings with DWP
- A process agreed to resolve issues more quickly
- A need to understand the issues around national policy and local implementation

QUESTIONS

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