


**Change is constant –  
benefits and welfare agenda  
Paul Howarth DWP**

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“The only constant is  
change.”


Heraclitus

500BC

## Five drivers of change

- demographic trends
- economic factors
- social developments
- results of policy evaluation
- political priorities and imperatives

- Ageing population and greater life expectancy
- Ratio of working age to pensioners declining
- Pensioners becoming more affluent
- Pensions reform
- Working life extended



“Observe constantly that  
all things take place by  
change.”

Marcus Aurelius

- Funding and investment when times are good, or in particular circumstances (£75m for local authorities in 2009/10)
- Focus on efficiency - 5% challenge over the spending review period
- Public finances in the next few years
- Local Housing Allowance expenditure higher than originally forecast so changes made
- More support for homeowners and for unemployed people during the downturn

## The Young Persons Guarantee:

- **help with getting job in a key employment sector (Care First, retail, hospitality, leisure, travel, facilities management, food manufacturing)**
- **Future Jobs Fund**
- **work-focused training**
- **work experience via the Community Task Force**


# Future Jobs Fund

**150,000 jobs for young people and jobseekers in disadvantaged areas:**

- **real jobs (national minimum wage, 25 hours a week, six months duration)**
- **additional**
- **community benefit**



- Labour market changes – new industries
- Household formation
- Phone contact, mobiles, text messaging
- Growth of the internet
- IT projects to improve access to DWP data and electronic transfer of data
- Lean, data-matching, quicker information from customers




“To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.”

Henri Bergson

- Wide-ranging internal Housing Benefit review in 2008
- Housing Benefit and work incentives
- Worklessness among social sector tenants

And underway:


- Two-year review of the Local Housing Allowance
- Close look at exempt accommodation



“In a progressive country change is constant; change is inevitable.”

Benjamin Disraeli 1867  
(in Edinburgh)

- Eradicating poverty - introduce disregard of Child Benefit in HB - October 2009
- In and Out of Work Project
- Improving security – Government Connect and Employee Authentication Service
- Calman Commission
- Current campaign, led by Royal British Legion, to re-brand as Council Tax Rebate



**“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”**

**JF Kennedy**

**“To improve is to change. To be perfect is to change often.”**

**Winston Churchill**