

Appendix 5: Central and Local Government – A summary of responsibilities

- **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) –** The DWP has overall policy responsibility for the social inclusion and anti-poverty agenda. It has a central role in agreeing with other government departments a range of targets that relate to employment, education, health and crime, and publishes an annual report towards those targets (opportunity for All).
- **The Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) –** Set up in 1997, its remit is to help improve government action to reduce social exclusion by producing “joined up solutions to joined up problems”
- **The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRU) –** recently set up by the SEU. At the end of 1998, 18 co-ordinated Policy Action Teams (PATs) were established, co-ordinated by the SEU, to report on how government might tackle particular issues of social exclusion.
- **The recommendations informed the development of the report A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan,** reviewed earlier in this report. The action plan sets out 105 firm commitments which will contribute to meeting the Governments aim that within ten to twenty years, no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.
- **The Department for Transport, Local Government and the regions (DTLR) –** The DTLR’s contribution to the social inclusion agenda includes managing the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). It provides resources to support regeneration initiatives in England carried out by local regeneration partnerships. Its priority is to enhance the quality of life of local people in areas of need by reducing the gap between deprived and other areas, and between different groups.
- **The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) –** The DCMS is committed to combating social exclusion through its Performance Service Agreement (PSA) with the treasury: PSA objective 6 states that DCMS will “promote the role of the Departments sectors in urban and rural regeneration, in pursuing sustainability and in combating social exclusion”. The DCMS has commissioned two significant pieces of research, the first looks at how 14 projects with broad social exclusion objectives are being evaluated and the lessons for success; the second piece of research explores the extent to which social impacts are considered as part of lottery funding, and how this might be measured in the future.
- **The Local Government Association (LGA) –** In January 2001 the LGA surveyed all local authorities to gain a picture of initiatives and approaches being pursued to promote social inclusion and anti-poverty. In November 2001 the LGA published a social inclusion toolkit, Tackling poverty and social inclusion through cultural services.