

Tackling poverty through work: national, regional and local employment strategies for poverty reduction

The Circle, Sheffield
(<http://www.thecirclesheffield.org.uk/>)

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Promoting employment is at the forefront of government approaches to tackling poverty in the UK. National policy levers to encourage paid work include active labour market programmes, tax credits and the national minimum wage. Recently, there has been increasing emphasis on more local approaches to fostering economic growth. The Government has devolved funding and powers to local areas through initiatives such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), City Deals and the Single Local Growth Fund. However, tackling poverty is not always a key objective of this 'local growth' agenda. This is significant as research shows that economic growth at the local level does not necessarily reduce poverty.

This event will launch two reports commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to review evidence on policies to promote employment and their impact on poverty:

- *Employment pay and poverty: evidence and policy review* by Kathryn Ray, Paul Sissons, Katy Jones and Sandra Vegeris (Work Foundation, Coventry University, Policy Studies Institute)
- *Regeneration and poverty: policy and practice review* by Richard Crisp, Tony Gore, Sarah Pearson and Peter Tyler (Sheffield Hallam University, University of Cambridge).

Speakers will discuss the success of past employment policies in tackling poverty. They will also reflect on what needs to be done to make poverty concerns central to local economic growth agendas. This will be followed by a panel discussion with experts from the policy, practice and academic communities.

10.15 am	REFRESHMENTS ON ARRIVAL
10.45 am	INTRODUCTION
11.00 - 11.45 am	Employment, pay and poverty <i>Kathryn Ray and Paul Sissons</i>
	This presentation examines the relationship between employment, pay and poverty. It will describe the links between employment characteristics and poverty outcomes before outlining the evidence base on the impact of different employment interventions on poverty reduction. What these findings mean for national and sub-national policy making is then discussed.
11.45 – 12.30	Regeneration and poverty <i>Richard Crisp and Tony Gore</i>
	This presentation will examine evidence from past programmes on the effectiveness of regeneration in improving outcomes around poverty, worklessness and employment. It will then reflect on the implications of these findings for the current 'local growth' agenda.
12.30 – 1.15 pm	LUNCH
1.15-2.15 pm	Panel Discussion
	A panel of experts will offer their reflections on the link between employment, poverty and local growth, followed by questions from the floor. The panel will include: Ruth Adams (Director, Sheffield LEP) Steve Fothergill (Director, Industrial Communities Alliance) Jonny Wright (Cities Policy Unit, Cabinet Office)
2.15 pm	CLOSE

Confirmation of your place will be emailed on receipt of your application.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you are no longer able to attend so that your place can be reallocated.

Directions to the event venue: <http://www.thecirclesheffield.org.uk/location>