

The Civil Service Local North West Going Forward Project is an initiative of Civil Service Local.



Civil Service
Local

What is Civil Service Local?

Civil Service Local is a cross-departmental initiative to promote and deliver greater collaborative working and reform at a local level. Our role is to improve the culture, identity and brand of the Civil Service; we do this by identifying, developing and delivering initiatives that result in:

- **Better opportunities** for staff
- **Better services** for the public
- **Better value** for money

Civil Service Local North West Blog

<http://civilservicelocal.blog.gov.uk>

Civil Service Local Going Forward Project

Contact:

Steve Maudsley – steve.maudsley@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Tariq Siddiqui – tariq.siddiqui@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk



Civil Service
Local **North West**

The Going Forward Project



'Working in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison Service'

Going Forward is one of our projects designed to Support our local community. Specifically, this programme is intended to improve 'job readiness' for offenders and aims to help bring down the rate of re-offending in our area.

What is the Going Forward Project?

The project was first trialled as a joint venture between Civil Service Local North West and HMP Kirkham in 2013/2014. It'll now be rolled out to benefit other facilities and include a broader range of offender groups.

Supporting our local community

Supporting Our Local Community is a series of new projects supporting specific customer groups. Using volunteers, we aim to improve the delivery of public services and provide more direct access and support to customers at those times when they need us the most.

How does it work?

The project is tailored to meet offenders' specific needs, lasting anything between 6 weeks and 6 months. The project team design and delivering training sessions, which so far have included:

- CV writing and Interview Skills
- Acceptable Workplace Behaviour
- Conflict Resolution
- Setting Realistic Ambitions
- Money Management, Banking and Budgets

This sort of training and support isn't otherwise available to the offenders involved. It can help them build their confidence and self-esteem and get the skills they'll need. By encouraging ambitions which are realistic and relevant, the programme's ultimate goal is to improve their chances of finding a job when they are released.

What are the benefits of getting involved in the Going Forward Project for you as a Civil Servant?

- a chance to enhance your personal skills and develop your Civil Service Competencies
- the experience of working with Civil Servants from other Government Departments
- the opportunity to volunteer for something different
- new experiences and different ways of working
- the satisfaction of knowing that you've helped a customer group in need of support
- The opportunity to represent the Civil Service, rather than just your own Department
- The knowledge that by taking part in the project, you are helping to make a real difference to people within our community.

"Going Forward has been the most rewarding challenge I've been involved in. It has been extremely hard work, but the skills I've developed and Cross-Department relations I've built through the Project have made it all worthwhile. I would recommend others to take advantage of this excellent opportunity." – Team Member

What did the Civil Servants who took part think of the project?

"I look back at it, and I smile. It's been the experience of my career to date, and I think it was pivotal in my becoming a manager in DWP. The personal and professional fulfilment has been immeasurable, and for all those debating about whether or not to get involved in Civil Service Local's next endeavour, I say face your fears and conquer!" – Team Member