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Centre for Social Justice Responds to Universal Credit Launch

The Centre for Social Justice welcomes the White Paper released today by the Coalition Government entitled *Universal Credit: 'Welfare that Works'*.

The White Paper has been heavily influenced by the Centre for Social Justice's work on welfare and in particular our report *Dynamic Benefits: Towards Welfare that Works* (released 09/09). This report recommended that benefit reform should improve work incentives for claimants to make work pay and address welfare complexity by introducing a consistent, tapered withdrawal of benefit and consolidating multiple benefits into a single payment. Both of these proposals have been fully adopted in today's White Paper. The changes announced today will help break the spiral that has created a dependency culture and has trapped large elements of our society in poverty. We are delighted that today's White Paper reflects five years of work by the Centre.

Gavin Poole, Executive Director, Centre for Social Justice says: "Britain's broken communities are defined by five characteristics, which we define as the pathways to poverty: family breakdown, educational failure, drug and alcohol addiction, severe personal indebtedness and economic dependency – caused by intergenerational worklessness. We are delighted to see the Government today taking a massive step towards tackling one of the most significant drivers of poverty and cutting through the biggest barrier to work – the welfare state itself."

The Centre for Social Justice would be delighted to provide spokesmen to comment on this story. For media inquiries, please contact Nick Wood of Media Intelligence Partners Ltd on 07889 617003 or 020 3008 8146 or Alistair Thompson on 07970 162225 or 020 3008 8145.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank established, by Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP in 2004, to seek effective solutions to the poverty that blights parts of Britain.

In July 2007 the group published *Breakthrough Britain. Ending the Costs of Social Breakdown*. The paper presented over 190 policy proposals aimed at ending the growing social divide in Britain.

Subsequent reports have put forward proposals for reform of the police, prisons, social housing, the asylum system and family law. Other reports have dealt with street gangs and early intervention to help families with young children.

The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP stood down as Chairman of the Centre on his appointment as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in May 2010 and is now the Founder and Patron.