

## **"Ten Commandments" as a framework for our working on Worklessness.**

1. All those who are not working are individuals with their own problems, abilities and disabilities. We must be wary of generalizations and treat each individual as valuable in their own right.
2. We must recognize that illiteracy is a major issue within our communities.
3. The raising of self esteem is a vital part of the process.
4. There must be an assumption that services and training should be delivered to those without work at as local a level as possible.
5. The issues of health, particularly mental health, are inextricably related to poverty. Breaking the cycle is very difficult but essential. The significance of depressive illness inhibiting people's ability to engage with work is of major importance and must be addressed.
6. We must look at what is already there on the ground rather than unnecessarily producing new organizations to help people with worklessness. We need to look at how voluntary organizations with which they are familiar and in which they have confidence can encourage people back to work.
7. This work must be delivered on a partnership basis. The Local Authority will not be able to deliver solutions on their own.
8. Whether we like it or not targets/outputs are there and we have to acknowledge their existence and work with them.
9. Local neighbourhood planning to deal with these issues is vital. Top down local authority wide initiatives will not work without the confidence and support of local neighbourhoods.
10. It is important that we don't believe that we have all the answers and go on meeting together to learn from one another and to discover new possibilities and fresh ideas. We need to monitor progress together annually.

**Bishop Stephen Lowe**  
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