



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH WEST

I am delighted to support this event to celebrate Lancashire County Council's attainment of the Beacon Award for working with and supporting older people. The event provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the work that Lancashire are doing and also to promote future plans to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of older people.

Our ageing society is one of the main challenges facing the UK today. Already in Britain there are more pensioners than there are children under the age of 16. The Government aims to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, has the opportunity to participate fully in society and has the chance to live healthy, fulfilling, and productive lives.

The scale of the challenge is considerable, but by working together locally, regionally and nationally we have an opportunity to build a stronger society and to create an environment where our later years are fulfilling and enjoyable.

I wish Lancashire all the best for today's event and thank them for their innovative work and commitment to this increasingly important agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Phil Woolas'.

Phil Woolas  
Minister of State for the North West  
Minister of State for Borders and Immigration