

## MINUTES OF JOBS STRATEGY GROUP

**Date:** Wednesday 5 May 2010

**Held at:** Capital City Partnership, 1 Canon Street, Edinburgh

**Present:**

Ken Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council
Jim McGonigle	Jobcentre Plus
Kate Burton	Edinburgh CHP
Matthew Crighton	Capital City Partnership
Jim Rafferty	Capital City Partnership
Brian Lister	Lothian Association of College Principals
Brian Martin	City of Edinburgh Council
Jenny Ewing	Capital City Partnership
Roger Horam	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

**Apologies:**

David Metcalfe	Chair
Pat Thomson	Skills Development Scotland
David White	NHS Lothian
Malcolm Barron	Skills Development Scotland

1 There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2010**

These minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3 **Matters Arising**

**SDS Operational Plan:** a link to this on the SDS website will be circulated with the minutes. MC

**Time to Train:** a link to information on the new right of employees to request training will be circulated with the minutes. MC

**Modern Apprenticeships in the Financial Sector:** Information on this is awaited PT

**Provider Engagement Meetings with DWP contractors:** these have still to be arranged.

**Co-commissioning:** the tenders for Progress2Work/Link-up had been submitted and local partners within the DWP's Chinese Walls will be involved in making comments on some elements of these.

4 **Partner Updates**

**Jobcentre Plus**

Jim McGonigle reported that although the JSA count had fallen slightly in the last month other indicators showed that there is little overall improvement in labour market conditions; there is still a lot of pressure on advisers from the volume of customers. Backing Young Britain is an important focus of JCP work, building up the vacancies available through the Future Jobs Fund and the Community Task Force and in the

colleges. Brian Lister raised the issue of options available for those who had failed to gain a university place. Matthew Crighton said that some options for creating additional opportunities for volunteering and learning had been proposed at the Partnership Forum. The meeting discussed the desirability of boosting the scale of the Future Jobs Fund while also ensuring the quality of the placements on the Community Task Force; it agreed that Edinburgh should seek to learn from areas which were finding ways around barriers to the inclusion of NHS and SME vacancies within the FJF.

JM  
BM

### **Edinburgh CHP**

Kate Burton commented on the concerns raised by some GPs in Edinburgh about the Fit Note which had been launched in April, replacing the sick note. She also reported concerns from NHS staff about the impact on patients with health problems (including mental ill-health) being moved from Employment Support Allowance or IB onto JSA. The Health and Employability Sub-group is looking at this to examine the scale of the problem and consider any local actions which can be taken. Following a recent meeting between JCP and NHS Lothian a funding bid for a condition management service for JSA customers was being prepared. Jim McGonigle said that JSA advisers were seeing more people with mental health problems and agreed that a condition management service could be useful for them. He reported that JCP had run additional mental health first aid and awareness courses for its staff. Kate Burton reported that mental health training had been offered to intermediaries and further training planned for 2010/11.

KB

KB

### **City of Edinburgh Council**

Ken Shaw reported that the allocation for Economic Development had been protected in the Council's 2010-11 budget. Work on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of Employability Services by Halcrow was underway, following their approval by the Council Management Team. This is led by City Development which is establishing an internal steering group comprising heads of services from different departments. An internal team was being set up to drive the process and the JSG (through sub-groups where appropriate) would be used as a sounding board to test the practicality of proposals and help implementation.

Brian Lister asked whether the Council can provide information about the 16+ cohort and the size of the MCMC group. Ken said there was discussion underway about the links between the offer from Children and Families Department and the Jobs Strategy. It was agreed that it is important to identify the scale of the issues and dovetail services from schools, SDS and economic development.

### **Further Education**

Brian Lister reported that the three colleges were continuing to work together and that he was briefing the new principals of Edinburgh's Telford College and Jewel and Esk College about the jobs strategy. Their grants from SFC for 2010-11 were stable compared with the previous year but with no increase for inflation at about 3%.

### **Capital City Partnership**

Jim Rafferty said that he was giving support to the implementation of the Halcrow review, with a view to ensuring that it improves outcomes (or protects them if funding falls) and that it enables the business of partnership and support for the processes of the strategy.

David Metcalfe had asked him to bring to the meeting his suggestion that the JSG should seek to promote the localisation agenda to MPs and ministers after the election. It was agreed to pursue this. Matthew Crighton said that the Cities Strategy Learning Network was preparing a summary of the achievements of the Pathfinders for this purpose and it was agreed to promote examples from Edinburgh in this.

CCP

## 5 **Performance Reports**

### **Operational Plan**

Arising from the summaries given on each section of the Operational Plan, the following points were discussed.

Greater Customer Reach: the employability outreach activities of Get On/GAP and the Multi-Area Employability Programme should be co-ordinated, bringing in links with Community Learning and Development and with Community Renewal. It was noted also that Spectrum has some related activity.

Health and Employability: the impact of the employability training programme can be measured partly by Caselink but this will not capture all referrals from health staff into employability.

Employer Engagement: a health and social care employer event would take place on 15 June; the third in a series of pre-employment training events in hospitality would take place; the review of the employer offer by Rocket Science was underway.

Offer to Jobseekers and Customer Satisfaction: a summary of the DWP/JCP offer was now available and with input from other partners this would become an adviser pack. A report on customer satisfaction data from partners will be prepared for the next JSG.

Joined Up Funding: the Performance and Resources Group had held a workshop to share partner priorities and plans for 2010/11, to consider funding constraints and available sources of funding and to set objectives.

Skills Development: West Lothian and Midlothian Councils wish to be part of the Skills Summit Working Group. Discussions had been requested with the universities about the participation of higher education. The local work will integrate with the national work of the SDS/SFC Skills Committee.

Help for Workers at Risk: some progress reported under PACE and Working Health.

More Choices More Chances: JET was expanding to S4 and S% and to most schools in Edinburgh. Introduction of 16+ Learning Choices should help tackle negative destinations and help the linking of Children and Families with the employability agenda. Brian Lister will bring to the JSG issues arising from his role in a national working group on qualifications.

### **Outcomes Report**

Referring to the report, Jim Rafferty told the meeting that Working Links had given notice that it would withdraw from its contract with CCP as area intermediary in North Edinburgh on 30 June. He added that the process of re-tendering the contract in Craigmillar was still underway.

Brian Lister asked about the future of Academy at St James Shopping. Ken said that the current contract was ESF-funded and would end in June; but that Henderson Global, the landlord and developer of the centre, wants to discuss continuity in some form. Brian said he would discuss this with Miles Dibsall, the new principle of Telford College.

Jim Rafferty observed that data from the two Flexible New Deal contractors was missing but he expects that they will supply it in the future. His suggestion that on-flow and off-flow figures should be incorporated into future reports was accepted.

CCP

Kate Burton asked how it could be discovered whether the beneficiaries of programmes are from the strategy priority groups. Matthew Crighton replied that this can be reported from Caselink. The JSG had received reports on this in the past; on moving to the simplified quarterly reporting format it had been intended that this kind of analysis should be done annually. It was agreed to ask for a report on the participation of priority groups in the programmes covered by the quarterly outcomes reports.

CCP

## **Recession Responses**

It was noted that this was the last meeting to which this document would be submitted; in future points of relevance could be included in the Bulletin.

### Further Education colleges

Brian Lister reported that the Edinburgh colleges had received £2 million additional funding to provide additional courses for the 16-24 age group (out of a Scottish total of £15 million). They would meet with JCP about work-focused training as part of the Young Persons' Guarantee. The funding from CCP for additional bursaries was a very helpful contribution to this.

## 6 **Bulletin**

Under this item the updates on Caselink, the Multi-Area Employability Project, the CCP 2010-11 Programme and the Protocol for Major Investments were noted.

## 7 **Performance and Resource Planning Group report**

The report was agreed.

## 8 **Dates of future meetings**

4 August  
3 November