

JUFJ Partnership Forum 17 Dec 2009

Matthew Crighton gave an overview of current Jobs Strategy plans to develop an Operational Plan and set new targets relating to skills and customer satisfaction (more detail in next Working Capital).

He then showed slides of the proposed new Customer Offer and Employer Offer pages for the Joined up for Jobs website which will also have an upgraded Service Directory.

Volunteers were sought for a reference group to review proposed web content. Around a dozen people present volunteered to meet early in the New Year - further details of a meeting will be posted on the online Noticeboard (or pass your details to Matthew at CCP, if interested in contributing).

Frances Wheldon, of the Council's Edinburgh Partnership introduced herself and her assistant Alan Christie who will be coordinating the Community Planning led ESF/ERDF programme 2008-2010. This has been live since July, and is still overcoming technical barriers with ESEP, with final grant confirmation letters still awaited but all systems should go from January for the various strands of work to proceed.

Introductions were given by various contributing projects:
High Support Needs Consortium (Peter Purves)
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade - Fire Skills for Success programme for young people (Geoff Aird)
Volunteer Centre - local volunteering hubs project (Jim O'Rorke)
More Choices More Chances work with disengaged young people supported by local schools and Careers Scotland (Jenny Suttie, CEC Children and Families)
Access to Industry (Sian Fiddimore)
Community Renewal - North Edinburgh - Nigel Green

More information was requested on the role and activities of Edinburgh Partnership to be clarified at a future meeting.

Other business

Heather MacNaughton of CastleRock Edinvar introduced the 'employability network' being established among local registered social landlords, and a mapping study being carried out of local employment support services. The RSL's have been invited to feed back on this to a future Forum.

Bruce Penman raised the issue of how community based employment support projects like West Edinburgh Action will cope with increased demand in 2009 for their services from 'less disadvantaged' clients as local unemployment rises.

The next Forum in Feb can give some time to this topic alongside proposed theme of Network Communications which will follow up on website developments and the new Working Capital ezine which should both be live by then.

Notes gathered from 'looking ahead' exercise

Opportunities for 2009

To develop

- Integrated tracking and monitoring
- Substantial support for higher needs jobseekers
- Common delivery standards
- Relationships with Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Larger fonts and some pictures on the new JUFJ website
- BIG JOINED UP OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges for 2009

Higher employment and its impact

Reducing the stigma of mental ill health

Continuing Welfare Reform

Supporting Retention

Finding funding for Aftercare

Gathering evidence for progression outcomes (jobs)

Understanding what CCP do and how they deliver it

(what does it mean for local organisations/projects)