



JOINED UP FOR JOBS
Edinburgh's Jobs Strategy

Partnership Forum

STRATEGIC - Formal link for two way dialogue/influence between partner agencies and JUFJ Strategy Group

PRACTICAL - Promoting partnership working/developing new mechanisms to deliver JUFJ strategy

COORDINATION - Exchanging good practice and enhancing coordination of services

Meeting on Thursday 21st August 2008

Business Centre, City Chambers

Host Agency - JobCentre Plus - Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders District Office

UPDATE ON JOBCENTRE PLUS AND DWP SERVICES IN EDINBURGH

Present 43 attendees - from 26 projects/organisations (see attached list)

Jobs Strategy Update

Matthew Crighton

Introduced the session by giving an update on recent Strategy activity - and noted that the last Jobs Strategy Group minutes would shortly be posted on JUFJ Noticeboard. He also reminded all interested agencies to ensure they sign up for the JUFJ Noticeboard posting rights, so they could receive Digests of new postings.

Presentations

Alister McInnes -Jobcentre Plus Local **Partnerships Manager** gave an overview of the new **Employment Support Allowance**, development of Local **Employment Partnerships** and the launch of a new **JCP Jobpoint** at Captain's Road in Gilmerton, a joint venture with the Council.

Lyndsay Geddes -Jobcentre Plus's local **3rd Party Provision Manager** - gave an overview on the introduction of **flexible New Deal and other DWP contracts**

After coffee **Paul de Pellette** - **Area Coordinator for WorkDirections** gave a **progress update on first 9 months of Pathways to Work** delivery in Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders - so far - of 1412 IB claimant programme starts in City of Edinburgh, 301 have started work.

Discussion

How can we improve local joined up working in Edinburgh between JCP, DWP contractors and other JUFJ providers - to fit with Jobs Strategy aims?

Key Action points for Jobs Strategy (Summary) see attached notes for detail

- 1/ Clarify JCP changing role and remit at local level under Pathways to Work - particularly Disability Employment Advisors
- 2/ Clarify access to former DEA services which have now passed to WorkDirections
- 3/ Other JUFJ providers in Edinburgh - clarify how they can help sustain client pathways of support if DWP funding does not follow client?
- 4/ Establish how JCP/DWP plan to evaluate customer reaction to ESA and effectiveness of Pathways/FND roll out at local (Edinburgh) level
- 5/ Clarify how JCP local District Office can help broker/assist complimentary working at local level between JCP, WorkDirections, and existing network of JUFJ providers for benefit of clients.

- 6/ Clarify role of local DWP Jobs Strategy partnership (including JCP) in commissioning future FND and Access to Work contractors (2009) to fit with local needs.
- 7/ Establish shared protocols for claiming job outcomes for Pathways and further DWP programmes to minimise double counting.
- 8/ Tackle 'structural barriers' created by new contracting arrangements - which may impede/reduce support for some jobseekers
- 9/ Map any emerging local service gaps for IB clients and feed back to DWP nationally on any 'structural barriers'
- 10/ Build employer representation in JUFJ network
 - o Involvement in planning job placements/work experience for IB clients
 - o FND – explore what is meant by DWP commitment 'to engage with local community orgs' and how this fits with 'top down' commissioning practice.
- 11/ JCP local District Office to be asked to share local LEP employer list with JUFJ network- and detail of the commitment signed up to.
- 12/ Develop local 'service framework' for 'Non Pathways' clients (currently 30% of IB claimants) and ESA claimants who want to raise employability but not in 'work related' group.

Next Forum is scheduled for 16 October -with proposed theme - Employer Engagement (planning meeting for contributors 1st October Waverley Court 10 am)