



Joined Up for Jobs 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.

**Note of Meeting on Thursday 5th October 2006
9.30-12.30 -Business Centre, City Chambers**

HOSTED BY Wise Move – Homelessness and Addictions Employability Forum

AGENDA

Present (36 reps, 30 services)

Veronica MacMillan, Alex Nuth Wisemove
Sian Fiddimore, Transition
Andy Reid, Freshstart
Mike Penny CEC Housing
Martin Bonnar Turning Point Scotland
Peter Purves Intowork
Sara Neilson, Reed In Partnership
Louise Clark Bethany Christian Trust
Kate McDonald Forth Sector
Jackie Stoddart JobCentre Plus
Dughall Laing, Anne Davies the Action Group
Chris Hewitt Edinburgh Cyrenians
Gina Whittaker DHP Scotland Ltd
Chloe Shand Scottish Business in the Community
Ken Crump Capital City Partnership
Des Loughney – Edinburgh Trades Union Council
Terry Anderson STUC Support @Work
Dominique Petitqueux Communities Scotland
Colin Dunn Apex - City Connexions
Eddy MacGregor Skillnet
Lesley Stephen DTTO (CEC?)
Judith Cramb, Gowrie Care
Colin Langley, and David K – TAP
Angus Whyte CLAN
Fiona Doyle, Maureen Whannell- Midlothian Council(Pathways)
Mark Brown CEC Throughcare and Aftercare
Issi Rodgers - Castlecliff
Bruce Penman Stevenson College/West Edinburgh Action
Isobel Campbell National Schizophrenia Fellowship
Maureen Webster, Sean Bradley Careers Scotland
Mandy Lawson, Laura McIntyre CEC Econ Dev

New faces from the Homeless and Addictions Support network were welcomed.

Presentations

Veronica MacMillan , Capacity Building Coordinator **Wise Move** gave an overview of findings of recent mapping studies carried out by Wisemove of employment support in the city for Homeless and those with Addictions which stress the need for joined up working between agencies to help clients progress . The future is at present uncertain in Edinburgh for Wisemove as their funding support for homeless in the city is about to run out.

Martin Bonnar, **Turning Point Scotland** used a typical case study to illustrate the need to link up Employability and Treatment Agencies

Mike Penny, CEC gave an update on the **City Council's Homelessness Strategy** and current context of growing waiting lists. (summary to be circulated)

Andy Reid outlined **Fresh Start** project which offers work experience and training to unemployed who carry out electrical testing of equipment for local businesses.

Sian Fiddimore showed a DVD of Transition's successful training programmes which offer flexible study facilities and support to help recovering substance abusers access formal qualifications.

Question Time - a range of issues were raised with the panel of presenters, plus 3 feedback sheets were returned with further concerns /issues raised by agencies present. This is summarised below

Employability Support and Training in the Homeless and Addictions Sectors

What works

Person centred, holistic approach needed with focus on 'building better lifestyles'

Flexible training programmes with ongoing support eg Transition/Apex.

Taster sessions – to build experience/help client make informed and appropriate choices

More joined up working eg between housing and drug treatment services.

Programmes which give clients realistic work structures- many not used to 9-5 routine.

More follow up support - important not to set clients up to fail

Gaps

Not enough life skills training such as coaching, self esteem for clients not yet work ready.

Not enough transitional programmes/work experience placements in the city.

Lack of provision for those with both learning disabilities and addictions.

Pressing need for more affordable rented housing –many clients need to stabilise living arrangements before ready to take on work/training.

Concern re extra pressure on housing due to migrant workers inflow and more to come in 2007

Benefits trap – (especially for young people from care) no incentive to leave security of benefits to start low paid job.

Lack of central / mainstream funding. Agencies constantly chasing multiple sources of funds – and many key funds ending or reducing – threatens stability of services for many clients who need long term support.

Not enough employer involvement

More work with employers needed to create opportunities/ supportive work places.

In work support (by employers and support agencies) needed to sustain jobs.

Problems of 'stigma' of ex substance abusers- harder for clients to be open with employers.

Both new workers and employers need info/training on employment rights/responsibilities

NEXT FORUMS

Dec 7 –NOTE VENUE CHANGE Main Council Chamber.Theme **BME support services**.

Feb 8 2007 – European Room. Theme –FE and Employability ('DELIVER' Project Partners)