

Edinburgh City Strategy

Meeting of: **Joined Up For Jobs Partnership Forum**

Held at: Business Centre, City Chambers

Date: **14 February 2008**

1 **Introduction and matters arising**

Brian Robertson introduced the agenda and welcomed all to the forum. There were no matters arising.

2 **Job Strategy update**

Matthew Crighton updated the forum on developments in the strategy and informed the Forum on commitment of spend on the Pathfinder Grant. The two major spends to date are for an Area Focus project in Muirhouse (this has been awarded to Community Renewal through an open tender process); and Academy St James. There is a potential that these spend may be matched to an ESF bid from the CPP (Community Planning Partnership). MC reported that at the Job Strategy Group meeting there was talk of the assessment of the progress to date and the desire of the group to move the work streams from discussion to action. There had also been meetings with other Local Authorities in the Lothians in discussion with Pathfinder and it may be possible to link up but would depend on their response. MC also informed the Forum that CCP would continue funding the Job Strategy Team for 2008/09

3 **Update on DWP Consultation – repositioning Workstep/Access to Work**

Peter Purvis informed the Forum of the public consultation from the DWP on improving specialist Disability Services. That the closing date of the consultation is 10 March. The DWP is combining 2-4 programmes into one. These are Work Preparation, Workstep and Job Intro (this does not include Remploy which would be introduced separately in 2009). The main driving force behind bringing under one group would be to ensure progression of the client. Discussion followed about Prime Contracting and concern of loss to sub contractors and whether LAs will be allowed into the market and if contracts will be longer. Peter would like to receive emails of concern to feed forward to the consultation. Mathew informed the group that in regards to commissioning strategy it the Workforce Plus National Delivery Group had urged that the DWP should have a Scottish commission strategy.

4 **Get On – piloting new approaches in Service User Involvement (SUI) and Case Management**

Brian Robertson gave an overview of the development of the SUI in the Council through involvement with the ESF Equal Access programme. Kate Lyndsey gave a presentation on SUI (See Appendix A)

Paul Harvey, a Service User, gave his background of becoming involved. The Forum broke into workshops with specific questions. (See Appendix B)

5 **Money Advice and Employability**

MC circulated an executive summary of an evaluation on Money Really Matters and explained to the forum that this Money Advice project had been funded by the Scottish Executive to assess the impact of Money Advice of putting people into work. (See Appendix C) .

MC introduced Drew McLellan who was employed by West Edinburgh Action as a Financial Adviser on the project. DM gave an overview of how the project operated and that originally it was set up with three strands: clients at WEA, Direct Referrals and input into partner's organisations. At the end of the project the three strands were one-to-one advice; Financial Literacy to organisations and Financial Health Changes. All new WEA clients would get a financial Health Check unless they opted out, but most remained 'opted in.' (See Appendix D)

6 **Discussion - Theme - Money Advice and Employability**

The forum broke into workshops for discussion over particular questions. The particular questions were two question:

Integration of financial literature and money advice with employability service
How well is this done?

What needs to be done to make it more accessible?

From the workshops the main points were:-

The work is patchy and needs more joined up work with intelligent referrals
All workers should be able to diagnose and refer on if needed.

Not enough expertise on money matters in employability organisations
Upskilling or external help
Referral routes through case management
Training for workers to know where/how/when to refer on to
Should be part of the initial assessment
Specialist are too busy and there is difference in geographical areas

There should be a floating service for all organisations with a shared offer of access

MA should be mapped strategically showing overlaps and conflicts

7 **Summing up – key points for Strategy Group**

Outcome from the Service User Involvement Job Strategy sessions suggested that the Job Strategy Team link up more with the local network and client groups

It was generally agreed to take forward further support on the strategy of Money Advice

8 **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 17th April 9.30 – 1.30 at the City Chambers Business Centre. Provisional theme – supporting mental health.