



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

Meeting on Thursday 2nd August 2007

Business Centre, City Chambers

9.30 – 12.30

Learning Disability and Employment

Attendance List – see below (43 reps from 26 projects)

Jobs Strategy Update

Matthew Crighton reported that 8 new Jobs Strategy workstreams now established, under new independent Chair of David Metcalfe of Lloyds TSB, with NHS Lothian and FE sector now on board. Joined up for Jobs label still remains, and DWP Pathfinder strategy to be known in interim as Edinburgh's City Jobs Strategy, with rebranding still under discussion.

DWP 'Deprived Areas Fund' (almost £1 million over 2 years) to be repackaged and deployed via Strategy Group. 3 priorities identified - a neighbourhood focus, building links with health and social care, and a project pool to commission specific innovative work (to be made available in 2008/09) more info from http://www.joinedupforjobs.org.uk/employment/information_327.shtml

Presentations - see attached

1/Joint presentation from Action Group/Engine Shed/Enable/Intowork (Bits and Bobs)

– Working with Jobseekers with High Support Needs

2/ Liz Catterson – Workforce Plus Team - national strategic perspective

Discussion

Key Points/ Issues raised

Funding Crisis - majority of **employability funding** in Scotland still fed through DWP but little reaching LD/high support jobseeker clients who need long term support. Liz C said that service delivery not just about size of investment but also impact on client/quality of outcomes.

Edinburgh –has no Workforce Plus funding, current ESF stream about to end, and DWP funding drying up with end of New Deal

Message for Workforce Plus team –Existing **Supported Employment services and proposed DWP Pathways to Work**- in Edinburgh are quite **different / incompatible. Pathways not expected to cater for most high support LD clients**

LD clients have a **right to work (part of Social Justice agenda)** but **who will fund help** for these clients?

How do we know who wants to work? – need to do **more mapping with Care Managers**, encourage **more holistic/person centred support** – employment support is part of this.

Young People with LD – now aspire to access mainstream work/training, culture of segregation has changed, more inclusive.

Need services/appropriate staff to support this in school, and support transitions for those leaving education

Need to get employers on board - currently fragmented approach for LD needs coordinated, eg gap between Lothian Employability Forum and JUFJ, more disability awareness raising needed with generic employment support staff eg JCP

(STUC) – Some employers still using Health and Safety as a barrier to exclude disabled jobseekers - **need more ‘can do’ approach**. DDA requires compliance with ‘reasonable adjustments’

Need more clarity on who is responsible for resourcing LD employment support –buck being passed between NHS, Local Authority and Scottish Executive – where does the statutory duty lie? Everybody’s responsibility but also nobody’s. Services delegated to voluntary sector in Edinburgh about to fail...as ESF cuts bite. Joined up working can help but need sustainable and targeted resources for LD jobseeker support.

Where is the funding to come from? LD risks being ‘Cinderella service’ as other public service priorities compete for reduced budgets.

For Further Action

Funding Action Group to be reconvened, and a submission to be prepared for next Jobs Strategy Group (22 August) raising concerns for provision re this high support needs jobseeker client group.

Liz Catterson agreed to chair this first meeting, and Mark Grierson (Health and Social care) proposed initial focus to explore options for collaborative, constructive action between Council and existing voluntary sector providers of LD employment support eg to investigate a possible joint ESF funding bid.

Next Meeting 4th October 2007 – The Challenge of Childcare

(Business Centre City Chambers – lunch to be provided, Working for Families to host)

Remaining 2007 dates - 6 Dec – Host CCP Jobs Strategy Team

Attendance List Joined Up for Jobs Partnership Forum 2nd August 2007 - Learning Disability and Employment

43 reps from 26 projects/services

Sean Bradley	Careers Scotland	Team Leader	0131 313 6091	Sean.bradley@careers-scotland.org.uk
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