



**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

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**Date:** Thursday, 10 December 2009

**Venue:** Business Centre, City Chambers

### 1 **Introduction**

Jenny welcomed everyone to the Forum and gave an update on the Jobs Strategy.

[Presentation available via this link.](#)

### 2 **Delivering Flexible New Deal – Luke Jeavons, Ingeus**

Luke spoke to his presentation then fielded questions from Forum members.

[Presentation available via this link.](#)

The first was in regard to how JCP decided which provider to send clients to. He said that clients are currently allocated on a 50:50 split between the two prime providers. DWP has plans to introduce client choice in the future, although the timescales for this are not completely set yet.

He was then asked if clients have a break in their claim, do they then have to return to stage 1? Luke said that if a client has a break in their claim whilst on Stages 1 or 2 of FND, then they return to the beginning. If a client has a break in their claim whilst on stages 3 or 4 (stage 4 being the stage that Ingeus delivers), then they return at the point at which they left to complete the balance of time on that stage.

In reply to a query about evidencing sustained employment, Luke said that Ingeus maintains contact with clients who are in work and offers in work support, both in terms of advisor advice and guidance but also financially at the discretion of the advisor. Ingeus confirms a job start with the employer and also checks for sustainability with the employer at 13 and 26 weeks. JCP is informed by the client and Ingeus of a job start.

Luke said that Advisers' caseloads were capped at 70/80 compared with JCP at 150/200. If it begins to exceed this then more staff are recruited. Ingeus sees more of their clients and asks more of them but this obviously requires their co-operation.

### 3 **Gender and Employability – Hazel Smith, Women Onto Work**

Hazel spoke to her presentation. [Presentation available via this link.](#)

In reply to questions she said that clients must be unemployed for 6 months for referral and

must be ready to embark on one of their 3 programmes. They currently have 160 employers on their database from all sectors. Thirty per cent of clients will continue on a voluntary basis at their work placement until they find permanent work.

#### 4 **Developing the Partnership Forum – Bruce Penman, WEA**

Bruce spoke briefly about the issues which the Forum should consider. These were:

1. Is a Chair required for the Forum? And if yes, what is their role?
2. How would a Committee/Steering Group communicate with and get the views of the other Forum members?
3. What direction is the Forum headed in? Info sharing? As a pressure group influencing policy?

Forum attendees split into 3 groups.

#### **Key points made:**

All agreed that a Committee would be beneficial with the key aims being to:

- (a) drive up **attendance**
- (b) take the **agenda** forward
- (c) act as a central point of **communication** for the promotion of ideas
- (d) identify areas of **good practice** dissemination
- (e) encourage opportunities for **networking**
- (f) elect a **chair**

Expanded below:

- (a) **Attendance** – agreed that the Forum should be “worth attending” and that content drives the agenda rather than vice versa. There is value for members in being part of JU4J as it links them in with the strategic vision. One group suggested a mission statement should be developed.
- (b) **Agenda** – the Committee could be helpful in the development of the Jobs Strategy in Edinburgh. Also agreement that some lobbying to policy makers takes place currently for instance via Jobs Strategy Group members and Policy & Strategy workshops nationally. Would the presence of Committee evidence the backing of 70 organisations? There is strength and potential within the JUFJ network but is it currently recognised? The aim would be for a committee to provide more strength of voice from the practitioners. There is also a view that it would be beneficial to have a forum that occasionally looked at the wider political arena in terms of unemployment and poverty, in the interests of healthy debate.
- (c) **Communication** – agreed that this is key, especially in an arena where there are so many other groups, forums and sub groups. Not always possible to attend every Forum but good to know that there would be a route for your views to be represented even if you could not attend.
- (d) **Good Practice** – it was agreed that the forum could be an arena for sharing good practice and staff development. These may be best organised as separate sessions and would perhaps attract different staff within the organisation. There was disagreement about the concept of “themed” meetings. While they can be useful, it may be the case that people who perceive it not to be of interest will not attend.
- (e) **Networking** – this is one of the attractions of the forum as it stands. If part of the agenda could be given over to organisations making short presentations about their work it would enable links and working partnerships to be made as has happened in the past. Is “speed dating” a possibility for this? There was the suggestion of an annual showcasing event or a regular agenda slot.
- (f) **Chair** – ideally a chair would have a place on the Job Strategy Group, but then there would have to be measures put in place to ensure they could properly represent the

forum

**Other areas discussed:**

- Currently a self-elected Committee – is this right?
- What is the perfect number for the Committee? 7?
- Requirement to state CCP as secretariat
- Benefits of networking at the Forum recognised especially with staff changes, new organisations and noted benefits of attending info sharing sessions that were short, punchy and relevant (e.g. given of Hazel Smith, WOW)
- Discussion re: developing groups from the Forum around synergy of working – observed that this is being developed by the Employability Learning Network at a Scottish level

5 **Meeting Dates for 2010**

Friday 12 February

**Friday 16 April – Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace**

Friday 11 June

Friday 13 August

Friday 15 October

Friday 10 December

**All meetings will be 9:30 – 12:30 in the Business Centre, City Chambers except the one on 16 April as shown above.**

**ATTENDEES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Luke Jeavons	Ingeus
Don Stubbings	EUS Community Learning Centre
Bruce Penman	Stevenson College Edinburgh
George Wilson	Edinburgh Napier
Fiona Short	SAMH Redhall Walled Garden
Emma Hunter	Access to Industry
Kirsten Cook	Everybody Online
Simon Medcalf	Everybody Online
Sinead O'Brien	Healthcare Academy NHS Lothian
Rik Hodgson	Waverley Care
Gillian Cousin	MEAN – Midlothian Council
David McEwan	Midlothian School Work Experience Placement
Alastair Paul	Skills Development Scotland
Viv Close	Capital City Partnership
	Impact Arts

Fiona Doring  
Lynne Woodman  
Fiona Drape  
Lisa Moffat  
Grace Spiers  
Marian Macdonald  
Jane Aldous  
Sue Robertson  
Dughall Laing  
Leigh Baird  
Susan Rae  
Maria Cavin  
Carena Brogan  
Jenny Ewing  
Myrtle Veitch

DHP Scotland Ltd  
Intowork  
Edinburgh Support Services/Skills Path  
RNIB Scotland  
Engine Shed  
CEC (Future Jobs Fund)  
One Parent Families Scotland  
Real Jobs  
Real Jobs  
Support@Work  
Work Rehab Service – NHS Lothian  
Capital City Partnership  
Capital City Partnership  
Capital City Partnership

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