



## 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: Friday 13 August 2010**

**Venue: Business Centre, City Chambers**

**1 Steering Group Update**

Dughall Laing welcomed all to the Partnership Forum and after introductions started the agenda.

**2 Strategy Update – Jenny Ewing, Capital City Partnership**

Jenny distributed the Jobs Strategy Bulletin and drew attention to the following:

Colleges

Additional funding of £2 million has been made available to the Edinburgh Colleges to provide more courses, especially but not solely for young people. Prospectus hasn't been delivered yet, but Jenny had brought photocopies. See handout for application details. Capital City Partnership has also granted Fairer Scotland Funding to the colleges for student support and bursaries.

Employer Offer

An external study has been made and the report will be available shortly. A second speed dating event is on 15 September at the City Chambers. It is aimed at employer engagement staff. Details are on the JU4J website.

Training

Courses for training in mental health issues are to take place in the Autumn – for further info contact Kate Burton.

Jobseeker Offer

Working Links has pulled out of the North Edinburgh contract. In order to maintain service for the remainder of the year, Edinburgh Business Development and North Edinburgh Trust are managing the staff team.

Customer Care

Congratulations were offered to Jobcentre Plus colleagues as the local District has the best results in the UK for customer care (which is evaluated by 'mystery shopper').

Pathfinder Funding

The WEACT staff team is now in place and contact details of who is working in which area will be published shortly. A formal launch of the service will take place in September.

### Job Strategy Group

The JSG has approved £180,000 of pathfinder funding to Edinburgh Jobs Fund Initiative (copying Future Jobs Fund Initiative). The local version will help young people who don't qualify for the national scheme. CEC City Development has also contributed to the budget. The project will be part of the city's ESF programme up to March 2011. The scheme will be run by Edinburgh Business Development.

### Pathfinder

The Pathfinder Grant is now fully committed.

Jenny said any questions could be put to her at coffee break.

## 3 **Organisations update**

### Jumpstart - Lorraine Buckley-Black, FourSquare, Senior Development Manager

Lorraine wanted to draw attention to the Jumpstart project. It is a 10 day work placement programme for young people (2 days a week for 5 weeks) and they are looking for placement hosts. The placements will form part of their assessment for a qualification in a Foundation Certificate in work placement competencies. It is a 3 year project with 8 programmes.

### ESF Priority 5 – Frances Wheldon, European Programme Manager

Underspend on ESF Priorities 1, 2 and 3 have been put into the new Priority 5 Strategic Skills Pipeline model. Applications are expected from Skills Development Scotland, STUC and from Community Planning Partnerships. The deadline for stage 1 applications is Friday 20 August. Stage 2 – 24 September and final stage the end of October/November.

## 4 **Kimberley Swan - Capital Credit Union, Financial Education Officer**

Kimberley explained that her post is funded by the Scottish Government to train and educate by giving presentations to organisations, arranging drop-in days, giving 1:1 advice etc. She provided contact details for anyone who may wish to make use of this service.

Kimberley then spoke to her presentation - slides attached.

Kimberley was asked what ID Capital Credit Union sought from potential customers as not everyone has a passport/driving licence. She said they accept a letter from the Benefits Office, Social Work Department or a Council Tax bill.

Asked whether she provides debt advice, Kimberley said she couldn't give specialist advice but would help with budgets and maybe offer a consolidation loan. They would also help customers pay rent arrears with their Housing Association.

It was suggested that Capital Credit Union is not widely known and that they could have a better community presence. Kimberley said this may well be the case as they are suffering along with the other financial institutions. Also, many people are fed up with their banks and opening current accounts with them despite it having been seen as a 'poor man's bank' in the past.

Kimberley said that online services are available for savings accounts and it is hoped that current accounts will be soon.

Kimberley said that everyone can become a member with as little as £1 per week savings. However loans can be refused if it is felt the customer can't afford the repayments. If the customer is on benefits the savings and loan payments must be paid directly into the account. Savings cannot be accessed until the loan is repaid.

5 **Jo Kirby – The Action Group, Manager Advice Service**

In addition to employment services, The Action Group provides various advice services and partners can contact Jo for information.

Jo spoke to her presentation – slides attached.

In reply to a question about benefits advice, a Financial Inclusion Advice Worker from Castlerock Edinvar said that most Housing Associations have access to FI advice. This is a free dedicated service to tenants. If you ask who the client's housing provider is then advice can be sought through them.

6 **Alison Barnes – Money Made Clear, Financial Capability Manager**

Alison spoke to her presentation - slides attached.

7 **JU4J Customer Charter Plus – Workshop on Case Management & Aftercare**

Jenny said that Customer Charter Plus was developed as Customer Charter didn't cover higher level services such as case management and aftercare. (Summary on this is in the Jobs Strategy Bulletin.) The workshop is to establish what makes a good standard of case management.

After the workshop, Jenny thanked the forum members for their input. Although there was no time for a plenary session, the flipchart comments will be typed up and circulated with the minute. Jenny will also put on as discussion topic on JU4J website. If people prefer they can email Jenny direct with any afterthoughts.

8 **Outcome based funding update and future input – Steering Group**

Dughall explained that the CEC have asked for input on the outcome based funding model and although we may not be able to influence their decisions it is an opportunity to let them know what we think.

The following points were raised –

- Divisive not collaborative
- Fewer jobs available – more skilled people out there moving our clients out
- Losing specialisms/having to diversify because of shortage of funding
- Paranoia over loss of funding not good for clients
- Need to prove value of what you do somehow
- Progress has been made but need common tool of measurement for orgs of distance travelled
- Paid for moving on
- Easier to measure if stick to specialisms
- Independent agreed standard of where client was at start
- Tick boxes/indicators
- Need to be bigger brokers as employers not interested during recession
- Need to fit into overall structure – no right to clients/employers – need to be good at what we do
- Tailor next bid around what we do
- Agreed set standards of what is an outcome
- Case management subsidy/nominal fee/no of people
- Retainer fee/next level funding
- Multiple barriers inevitably means multiple orgs (or should)
- Prime contractors won't work with multiple orgs – needs solved sooner than later

Dughall said a special meeting will be arranged to discuss this more fully. It was agreed that the Steering Group would then take the opinions of the Forum members to the CEC.

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### Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Dughall Laing	The Action Group (Forum Chair)
Kimberley Swan	Capital Credit Union
Allison Barnes	CFEB
Jo Kirby	The Action Group
Stephen Rae	Remploy
Lisa Moffat	Edinburgh Support Services/Skills Path
Alistair Craig	Capability Scotland
Dennis Mackay	Edinburgh Support Services/Skills Path
Gill Young	Castlerock Edinvar
Jenny Ewing	Capital City Partnership
Myrtle Veitch	Capital City Partnership
Rhona McLinden	Capital City Partnership
Heather Macnaughton	Castlerock Edinvar
Julie Woods	Phoenix Futures – P2W
Tom Reid	Working for Families, CEC
Vivienne Robinson	Working for Families, CEC
Frances Wheldon	City of Edinburgh Council , EPCCEP
Lucy Holroyd	Community Renewal
Terry Anderson	STUC Support@Work
Mark Macleod	Employment Enterprise
George Wilson	Edinburgh Napier University (Steering Group)
Kyle Hay	Ingeus
Sarah Scott	Ingeus
Kate Ronson	Ingeus
Pamela Grant	Ingeus
Adele Hill	Transition
Peter Purves	Intowork
Lindsay Geddes	Jobcentre Plus
Ruth Barr	NHS Lothian – The Works
Angela Wright	The Action Group – Real Jobs
Susan McLaughlin	Forth Sector
Lorraine Buckley-Black	Four Square (Steering Group)
Marian MacDonald	The Engine Shed