

Topic for discussion,

The steering group has been in discussion with Economic development following on from Ken Shaw's presentation at the last forum on The Halcrow report and its future recommendations for funding of employability services in Edinburgh.

As a part of the process a communication & consultation strategy has been developed and will be implemented in the coming months. The JU4J steering group has been invited to support these discussions and act as a voice for the forum.

To continue to move things forward we are asking the following questions which will form part of the coming agenda for further discussion

- The council has identified over 120 organisations in Edinburgh who do some form of employability work, is this accurate or sustainable?
- Is this necessary or beneficial?
- If it is not sustainable how can reductions be achieved without users losing out on support?
- What can the forum do to influence the changing funding process, given that we have been invited to do so?
- How can the work we do support the development of the local economy?

The main themes that have been raised already are as follows;

- The current funding model does not promote partnership working it promotes competitiveness.
- There is already less funding for employability work and this reduction is going to continue.
- Current Outcomes set down in the funding model do not reflect the work actually done with clients.
- Organisations have spent many years chasing funding & this has led to dilution of specialism's and services design moving away from the needs of clients to the needs of funders.
- The bulk of funding is placed for those closest to the labour market.
- We are currently working in a deep recession and this has radically shifted the positioning of our client groups