



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

Date: Thursday 18 June 2009
Venue: Council Chamber, City Chambers
Chair: Ken Shaw, CEC

1 **Minutes of the meeting on 7 May 2009 and matters arising**

The minutes of the last Forum were noted. These are available on the JUFJ website at http://www.joinedupforjobs.org.uk/employment/information_320.shtml.

2 **Skills Development Scotland - Update** – Patricia Thomson, SDS Area Manager

Patricia spoke to her presentation.

Patricia outlined the Adopt an Apprentice scheme for people who have been made redundant while undertaking an MA - new money is now available which will double the number of apprentices who can be helped.

A forum member asked which 5 schools were involved in 16+ Learning Choices. These are Forrester, Drummond, Gracemount, Broughton and Firhill. The other Edinburgh schools should be on board by Christmas with the special schools to follow in 2010.

There was a query about Activity Agreements. Patricia said these would be drawn up with the partners and young person in a case conference style and would be tailored to suit the individual.

The budget for learning for next year is £183m.

Jenny will post the SDS Corporate and Operating Plan on the JU4J website.

3 **Strategy Update** - Jenny Ewing, Capital City Partnership

Jenny spoke to her presentation – (see Strategy Update presentation and Bulletin)
A copy of the bulletin which had been compiled for the last Job Strategy Group was also circulated and would be posted on the website.

4 **Learning to Work: employability in colleges** – Bruce Penman, Stevenson College

Bruce spoke to his presentation – (see Learning to Work presentation)

5 **Employability in Colleges – discussion**

Perceptions of colleges -

Courses appear more relevant, are more accessible and reach a wider audience.

Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework seems to fit well with college. It's possible to gradually pick up enough credits to get into university.

Co-ordination between colleges, SMEs and partners is difficult.

It seems to be difficult going from community-based learning into college/university. This may be exacerbated by the rise in applications to college as a result of the economic climate. Jenny suggested that it might be useful to survey JU4J partners for numbers of clients whose applications to colleges have been unsuccessful.

Childcare is still an issue for many prospective students.

It was suggested that college targets may be more about keeping people in education rather than moving into employment. There was a lengthy discussion on this topic. Bruce responded that it is part of a college's remit to liaise with employers with the aim of getting students into employment.

6 **Draft JU4J Quality Charter – Consultation** – Jenny Ewing, CCP

Jenny spoke to her presentation – (see Customer Charter presentation and draft JUFJ Customer Charter).

7 **Draft Charter – discussion**

Benefits / Challenges / Omissions

- Positive recognition of good service.
- Will it involve more work for small organisations with little time to spare?
- Would there be different levels of accreditation if not all criteria were met? Jenny said a clear minimum standard is preferred.
- Promotion of the charter would be important in conveying the message we want to achieve.
- If there's a budget we could employ someone to save staff time.
- 'Service to employers' – Jenny responded that the word 'customer' was chosen so that the charter would cover both jobseekers and employers.
- Employer engagement was seen as the most problematic aspect as providers vary greatly in the services they offer employers.
- It was thought that here's a possibility of cherry picking to keep up with targets. Jenny stressed that the charter is not about targets or contract compliance.
- Can an organisation (e.g. Housing Associations) whose main business is not employability justify participation? In addition, it may have to be marketed in a way management will buy into. Jenny replied that the charter could be applied to a specific programme run by an organisation, rather than to the whole of its services. An example of this might be the Get On service run by CEC.

Next steps

There will be a workshop for providers to look at the draft framework in more detail and also to consider process. Details will be posted on the JUFJ noticeboard under consultations. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jenny.

8 **AOCB and DONM**

There was no other business. The next forum will be on Thursday 20 August in the Business Centre.

ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
April-Wendy Hayes	Women Onto Work
Lynne Woodman	DHP Scotland
Grace Speirs	RNIB Scotland
Dorothy Hewat	A4e Scotland
Yvonne McDermott	A4e Scotland
Roger Robertson	Real Jobs at The Action Group
Fiona Drape	Intowork
Cath Young	Access to Industry
Neabh Bradley	Remploy
Rachel Levy	City of Edinburgh Council
Irene Thomson	EDB Chamber of Commerce
Rhona Ellis	Capital City Partnership
Ken Crump	Capital City Partnership
Emma Salisbury	POLHA/TOIL Programme
Frances Wheldon	City of Edinburgh Council
Alan Christie	City of Edinburgh Council
Judith Nicolson	CEC - WFF
Vivienne Robinson	CEC – WFF
Angus Legg	Employment Enterprise
Marian Macdonald	The Engine Shed
Ken Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council
Jenny Ewing	CCP
Bruce Penman	Stevenson College Edinburgh
Jerusalem Balnabas	Skillnet Edinburgh
Myrtle Veitch	CCP