

# The Scottish Government

## Creating a Fairer Scotland: Employment Support Services

National Delivery Group Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

*Mike McElhinney*



# The Scottish Government

*Devolution through the Smith Commission creates the opportunity to develop a distinctively 'Scottish Approach' to employment support. These new powers can make a crucial contribution to our ambitions for sustainable economic growth, inclusion, fair work, and social justice. The Scottish Government is engaged in a collaborative process of consultation, policy development and service design. We want to build on our existing engagement with the UK Government and DWP, by drawing on the expertise and experience of conference members to discuss our approach from both a Scottish and UK perspective.*



# The Scottish Government

## 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 - employment support in Scotland will change

- Devolved services for disabled people and those at risk of long term unemployment.
- Work Programme and Work Choice replaced by Scottish services providing support, work experience and training for people to help them find work and stay in work.
- Scottish Government continue to argue for full control over employment powers, employment law, employability policy and welfare powers.
- Discussions ongoing on Scotland Bill, including the full range of services contracted by DWP and Jobcentre Plus.
- But work now to design, develop and deliver our employability services – a fresh look at delivery and what works best in the Scottish policy context.



# The Scottish Government

Parliamentary Debate – 28<sup>th</sup> April

*“Ambition to deliver employment support services in Scotland that will better help unemployed Scots into work, and better meet the needs of our labour market, and drive sustainable economic growth”*

## Key Principles

- design and deliver effective, sustainable and appropriate employment support in Scotland: seamless support to those on journey into work;
- not simply replicate existing approaches, but aim for asset based approach that compares with the best national and international practice;
- robust, costed and evidence based approach;
- a consultative approach to policy development - empowering communities and individuals in shaping public services they receive;
- build on our existing delivery strengths;
- work closely with the UKG/DWP on transfer of knowledge and expertise and learn what they know – and what we need to know from that.



# The Scottish Government

## Our Aim

- *Scottish Approach – a different approach to engagement and a different set of policy objectives;*
- Our aims of sustainable economic growth, inclusion, fair work, and social justice;
- Build on experience and expertise in Scotland and beyond;
- Consult service providers, employers and service users for views on the shape of future provision.



# The Scottish Government

## Timeline

- Discussion document launched on 6<sup>th</sup> July, engagement events through to 9<sup>th</sup> October;
- End of 2015 - Ministers confirm scope, content, and process for commissioning and implementing new services;
- Spring 2016 – commissioning;
- April 2017 – service delivery commences;
- Beyond 2017– further integration and alignment of wider funding/ services.