

SCOTLAND'S DEVOLVED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP– NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2016

Scottish Government, Europa Building, 450 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G2 8LG

Present:

Minister for Employment and Training, Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP
Professor Alan McGregor, Director of the University of Glasgow's Training and Employment Research Unit (Chair)
Alastair Cameron, Chair of TSEF
Garry Clark, Head of Policy and Research, SCC
David Coyne, Policy Advisor, Skills Development Scotland
Andy Drought, Scottish Government
Stephen McConnachie, Group Partnership Manager, Jobcentre Plus Scotland
Mike McElhinney, Scottish Government
Clare McIntyre, Scottish Government
Dave Moxham, Deputy General Secretary, STUC
Jim Murphy, Vice Chair (Modern Apprenticeships and Vocational Training), STF
Katherine Peskett, Scottish Government
Adam Reid, Scottish Government
Colin Robertson, Scottish Government
Laurie Russell, Co Chair ESS
Bill Scott, Director of Policy, Inclusion
Pamela Smith, Chair of SLAED
Kate Still, Co Chair ERSA
Gareth Williams, Head of Policy, SCDI

Apologies:

Kirsty McHugh, Liz Cameron, Neville Prentice, John Kemp and Nick Butler

Welcome and Introductions

Professor McGregor welcomed everyone to the eighth meeting of the Advisory Group. He then introduced the Minister for Employment and Training to the group.

Opening Remarks and Discussion - Minister for Employment and Training

Mr Hepburn expressed his gratitude to the Advisory Group for their contribution towards the development of new devolved employability services in Scotland. He acknowledged that there are high expectations of what can be achieved and highlighted that the cut in UK Government funding will present significant challenges. He continued that even so, there will be opportunities to better integrate and align services, with the aim to create a seamless journey for service providers, employers and in particular, service users.

The Group were then invited to share their views on what could be done to achieve better integration and alignment of services. Comments reflected:

- Define client group and how we will define success
- Visibility of the offer
- De-clutter the landscape and understand what works / evaluate to ensure good services can be replicated. Consider localisation within sensible geography
- Be consistent about measuring success
- Have a strategy people sign up to and agree
- Take opportunities to align with other strategies e.g. the attainment gap strategy
- Addressing attitudinal barriers
- Focus on preventative spend collective cross portfolio budgeting on achieving outcomes.

Action: Advisory Group members were encouraged to consider further and submit further suggestions on achieving better integration and alignment.

Health, Disability and Employment (Early Interventions) Project

Andy Drought (Scottish Government) provided a presentation on the Health, Disability and Employment (Early Interventions) Project. This project has focused on how to improve systems of early intervention in Scotland for people who may be at risk of being unable to maintain/sustain work, and entering into long-term unemployment due to ill health or disability.

Comments received from the group indicated that they felt the approach outlined had the potential to realise some key benefits in respect of integration and alignment of employment, health and other support services.

Scottish Government Update

Katherine Peskett provided an update on progress on the Employability Programme. This included:

- Resourcing
- 2017 Transitional Service Invitation to Negotiate (issued 26 July)
- Reflection on recent Programme Board meeting

Colin Robertson provided an overview of the Outline Business Case (OBC) process and challenges for 2018. He confirmed that this is being refined and will be presented to the Group at a later date.

Clare McIntyre mentioned developing plans for a potential Ministerial Summit. She would be grateful for Advisory Group feedback in relation to venues and the content of the summit.

Customer Insight work is underway and a number of organisations have expressed an interest in supporting this through facilitation workshops with people that use their services. Separately, but in parallel, SDS are developing a service design project which will also support this work.

<p>Action: Clare McIntyre to e-mail the Advisory Group seeking input/suggestions on content for a potential Ministerial Summit.</p>
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