

SCOTLAND'S DEVOLVED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP– NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Present:

Professor Alan McGregor, Director of the University of Glasgow's Training and Employment Research Unit (Chair)
Adam Reid, Scottish Government
Alastair Cameron, Chair of TSEF
Clare McIntyre, Scottish Government
Dave Moxham, Deputy General Secretary, STUC
David Coyne, Policy Advisor, Skills Development Scotland
Joanne Farrow, Scottish Government
Kate Still, Co Chair ESS
Katherine Peskett, Scottish Government
Kirsty McHugh, Chair, ERSA
Laurie Russell, Co Chair ESS
Lorna Trainer, Vice Chairman for Employability, STF
Mike McElhinney, Scottish Government
Nick Butler, DWP
Pamela Smith, Chair of SLAED
Stephen McConnachie, Group Partnership Manager, Jobcentre Plus Scotland

Apologies:

Liz Cameron, Sally Witcher, Neville Prentice, Ross Martin and John Kemp

Welcome and Introductions

Professor McGregor welcomed everyone to the ninth meeting of the Advisory Group.

Presentation followed by Discussion – 2018 Programme Disability Project

David Cameron, SG delivered a presentation followed by a discussion on the work that he is undertaking to consider the offer for disabled jobseekers within devolved employment support, with a particular focus on those who are harder to help. This work has included consulting with a wide range of stakeholders and people who use services to establish what work works well for this client group.

<p>Action: David Coyne, SDS to provide a copy of the Inspiring Scotland report to members of the Advisory Group.</p>

Scottish Government Update

Mike McElhinney discussed the progress currently being made with both of the 2017 transitional employment services. Work is progressing well with contracts, IT and operational guidance. The 2018 service is also being developed alongside this and the group were asked to highlight any issues with the current services so that improvements could be factored into the new services. Adam Reid informed members that the Minister for Employment and Training, Jamie Hepburn had published a blog explaining how the Scottish Government plans to support employability and confirming Scottish ministers view that these new services should be entirely voluntary: <https://blogs.gov.scot/scotlands-economy/2016/09/21/supporting-employability/>.

Action: Alastair Cameron, TSEF will feedback any issues with the PRaP to Joanne Farrow, SG.

Presentation followed by discussion: L&WI Research – Assessment Tools

David Coyne, SDS delivered a presentation and discussion on recent research carried out by the Learning and Work Institute (L&WI) which was jointly commissioned by SDS and SG. L&WI looked at the effectiveness of using assessment tools in the following areas:

- Prediction
- Segmentation
- Diagnosis
- Referral
- Case Management
- Participant Engagement
- Analysis

Results so far have been encouraging and it is hoped that this information could eventually be used to accurately track progress and provide a platform for referrals to the new Scottish services. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of a National Framework versus a single tool, funding models and the capacity of frontline staff to build effective relationships with their customers. This work is on-going but the current priority will be to focus on: costs, ease of use, implementation and security in relation to IT and assessment

Action: Nick Butler, DWP to provide Katherine Peskett with contact details regarding the commissioning and segmentation tool currently being developed by DWP.

Action: Alastair Cameron, TSEF volunteered to provide feedback from smaller organisations on how consistency can be achieved during the assessment process.