

National Delivery Group

Note of Meeting

15th November 2016

City of Glasgow College, Riverside Campus, 21 Thistle Street, Glasgow, G5 9XB

Welcome and Introductions: Prof. Alan McGregor

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mike McElhinney to the group.

Scottish Government Update: Mike McElhinney

Mike provided an update on the new Scottish Government employment support programmes: Work First Scotland (WFS) and Work Able Scotland (WAS). These will commence in April 2017. He also briefly outlined the approach towards developing new employment support services for 2018 and indicated that there would be further information shared at the Ministerial Summit on Employability planned for 23 November 2016. Mike informed the group of a series of Supplier Information Events which have been arranged in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness in late November/early December to seek the views of potential providers prior to commencement of formal procurement. This work is in tandem with information gathering from a range of other stakeholders in order to design future devolved services that reflect the needs of unemployed people in Scotland

DWP Presentation on Universal Credit (UC): Susan Johnston

Susan's presentation provided an overview of Universal Credit which highlighted the following:

- The point of UC is to make things less complicated.
- It supports people to find work and makes work pay.
- Every JCP now has UC claimants and full service will be rolled out by March 2022. There is expected to be 8 million UC claimants by completion date.

UC has been designed as a fully digital service and claimants will have an online account which they will be able to check payments, report changes and view transactions.

Challenges	Opportunities
How do we manage the concerns of different organisations who are involved in the UC process?	SG, LA's, NHS and Community Partners will be able to build better working relationships with colleagues and collectively address the concerns of customers.
How to engage public sector landlords?	Encourage landlords to get involved in National Landlord Forums
How to we identify and address barriers to UC such as literacy and numeracy?	Work Coaches receive significant training and will work with the same individuals for the duration of the UC claim. They can provide one to one support if literacy

	issues are identified.
What is the process for helping those who don't have access to IT?	JCP staff will assist those who don't have access to IT. There are some great examples of successful programmes and we should try to emulate these i.e. extend opening hours of schools in rural areas.
How can DWP improve the process for national organisations that provide help to people?	DWP are actively trying to improve engagement with stakeholders and are seeking to improve communication at all levels
Scottish participants in devolved programmes will not be subject to sanctions but how will this work?	DWP and SG are in agreement about this but have still to finalise a formal agreement regarding it.
More Scottish customers will be claiming UC whilst in work, how can this type of intervention be improved?	DWP currently looking at a number of trials: In Work, Intensive and Telephone. The information gathered from these should help to shape future provision. Access to Work staff will still be in JCP

SG Update and Presentation on Enterprise and Skills Review: Hugh McAloon

Hugh McAloon provided an update and overview of the Enterprise and Skills Review. The review was announced by First Minister on 25 May 16 and led by Keith Brown Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work 329 responses were received and analysed by an organisation called Snook identified the following:

- The current system is cluttered with a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities
- Everyone should have a single vision of goals and shared ownership
- There was tension between National and Regional approaches
- Insufficient Partnership Working

Consultancy studies were also commissioned – with David Skilling working on enterprise issues and Alan McGregor on skills issues.

The recommendations from this work will be completed in two phases and should ensure future skills provision:

- Has a more coherent and stronger governance system
- Has a statutory board to co-ordinate activity
- Is based on data and evaluation
- Can recognise the different social, economic and community development challenges
- Will recognise the specific issues in the HIE region and the South of Scotland
- Demonstrates much stronger co-ordination of international activity across public/academic centres
- Promotes innovation, with innovation action plan to be published late November 2016
- Aligns functions of learning and skills agencies
- Builds on a comprehensive review of learning journey

- Develops on the basis of a review effectiveness of investment in learning and skills
- Take consideration of demand for courses and employer skill requirements
- Involves investing sufficiently in helping those in employment to enhance their skills?
- Makes significant improvements to digital skills
- Supports Regional Partnerships – work with LA's to build on LEP's
- Supports enterprise – Improved core enterprise and support for businesses

Hugh then provided an update on the Apprenticeship Levy, outlining that from April 2017 all employers with a payroll of more than £3 Million will pay 0.5% of their pay bill towards the Levy. Employers who pay less than 3 million will not be liable to pay the levy. Following the consultation earlier this summer, Scottish Government will take a Scottish approach to this whilst working closely with industry.

SDS will shortly contract for Modern Apprenticeships 2017/18 and, going forward, employers will have the opportunity to help shape delivery of apprenticeship and skills programmes.

DWP Presentation: Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS): Christine Soutar

Christine Soutar was invited to share and update on the Department for Work and Pensions Dynamic Purchasing System. Previous procurement methods were limited and time consuming and DPS should improve this. It is an electronic process for setting up and maintaining suppliers and is a more effective and responsive tool which will be used to help organisations better support those who are in child poverty, those with multiple barriers, health conditions and to ultimately increase the number of people in work. Suppliers will need to think about their customers and the support they require. Suppliers will be able to change their offer at any time and it is hoped that this flexibility will encourage small local enterprises to access the system. DPS will replace ad hoc tendering and the emphasis will be on the quality of the bid.

Actions for the next NDG Meeting:

Alan McGregor invited the Group to share their thoughts on items for discussion/consideration at future meetings.

- Work Able Scotland – Discuss alignment, integration and co-ordination. What have we learned and how does this tie in with Health and Disability?
- What role will the Third Sector Employability Forum have going forward?
- Can we look at indicators and volumes from the Performance Framework?
- Developing Young Workforce – it might be useful to have interactive sessions on a set of work streams for this.

AOB

All NDG members have been asked to check the Employability in Scotland website in order to ensure that the current list of LEP representatives is up to date.