

13 September 2024

No One Left Behind – Publication of our Joint Strategic Plan

Since April 2024, all new referrals to devolved employability services have been supported through our No One Left Behind approach. This is a significant milestone and we welcome the commitment from all partners to continuous improvement to support better outcomes for people and communities across Scotland.

Today, we have published the [No One Left Behind Employability Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#), which establishes our joint priorities moving forward and sets out how we will continue to build on the progress to date. In setting these priorities out, we are mindful of the wider social and economic challenges facing Scotland, including high child poverty levels, rising economic inactivity, and lower rates of employment for disabled people. We are confident that employability services are a crucial element of the solution to these challenges.

Our joint priorities are underpinned by actions informed by evidence from previous employability provision delivered by both spheres of Government, evaluation of the implementation of No One Left Behind, and feedback from partners.

We are pleased to announce our commitment to introduce Specialist Employability Support, targeted at disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, across the country by Summer 2025. This will make a significant contribution to the Scottish Government's commitment to halve the disability employment gap by 2038. We have also committed to working more effectively with employers and supporting a just transition to Net Zero, ensuring that employability activity is more effectively aligned with the wider activity in these areas across Scotland

In developing this plan, we have valued the input from partners across the wider public, third and private sectors through our National Discussion events held in 2023. As we move forward, effective partnership working will continue to be a critical element of the Scottish approach to employability at both a national and local level.

The strength of engagement at the national discussion events held in Autumn 2023, which informed the development of this plan, demonstrated the importance of leveraging expertise across a mixed economy of provision. Effective partnership working remains crucial to the Scottish approach to employability, both nationally and locally, and we commit to publishing annual reports on progress throughout the lifetime of this plan.

With a focus on continuous improvement and strengthened partnership working across the Employability landscape, we can create the environment for services that make a lasting impact for those who face inequalities and are furthest from Scotland's labour market.

Tom Arthur
Minister for Employment and
Investment

Maureen Chalmers
COSLA Spokesperson for Community
Wellbeing