

Economy, Learning, Skills & Employment (ELSE) Theme Group
(Management) Meeting
Date: Wednesday 22nd October 2008

CHAIR: Jane Malbasa

Alison Orr CVSC, Brinder Seni CEN, Carol Jones CCC, Dave Sternberg NDC, Dean Marjoram LSC, Geoff Hyde CCC, Haramandeep Toor Probation Service, Aidie Fitzgerald CSU, Janet McLean JCP, Jim Newton CCC, Nigel Wain Coventry Partnership, Abtar Sanga Adult Substance Misuse Services, Sarah Abel CCC, Elaine Spraggett Henley College.

Apologies – Jane Beaver JCP, Alan Newbold Comm Ed, Christine McNaught FWT, Jane Johnstone CSWP,

Introductory Comments Jane Malbasa

Jane gave Jane Beavers apologies and her intention to carry on as chair of the group .

Jane gave a general overview of the local labour market (focusing on worklessness levels and vacancies notified) in the context of the current climate.

NI 152

(Coventry target 1% reduction) Base line May 2007, Aug 2007- 0.2% reduction November 2007 – 0.1% increase giving a net reduction 0.1% JSA claims – rise 213 = 0.1 % increase in the last ¼ (over the last 12 months JSA has reduced by 44 claims)

Vacancy levels are holding up - 0.6% lower than 12 months ago (across Coventry and Warwickshire). What is not readily available is the match between the vacancies and the skills/experience of the jobseekers.

Myles Mackie's Research and Strategy News letter gives a very good overview – link attached.

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/content/city-development-directorate/coventrystatistics/research-and-strategy-newsletter.en>

The steer from the strategic group is that the group carries on as we are. We now be questioning if the targets set are achievable. We must continue with the actions on the plan but the delivery may need to change. emphasis has always been focused on helping the hardest to help groups, this may need to change to **include** those newly unemployed or under threat of losing their jobs to help stem the flow of new customers, but must not be at the expense of the harder to help .

Comments from the group:- What we should have in place

When provision is put in place need to make sure there is effective sifting of applicants **upfront**, matching skills and motivation. Give the customers the chance to self

Employer Engagement - Employers involved in the design and delivery of provision

Joint working between agencies.

LEGI – number of customers held in “holding bay” increasing as labour market retracts. Need to explore the issues/barriers preventing these customers moving on. Is it capacity of the programme?

LEGI evaluation – November 08. Findings will be presented to the group by the LEGI core team when available. The group would like it to include a narrative with information on customer journeys, analysis of the impact of the range of interventions and case studies.

Feedback from Strategic Meeting

This will be a quarterly meeting

In the future this group will commission work from the ELSE group. As they have only had one meeting they are not in a position to do this as yet, therefore we will continue as we are for the moment .

A standard agenda item for the Strategic Group will be feedback from the ELSE group, therefore meeting dates need to be set to enable this to happen

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Sustainable Community Strategy & LAA

20 year vision for the city - Theme groups of the Partnership will oversee the delivery.

Page 12 gives details of the long term vision for the ELSE theme group.

NI152 Action Plan

The role of the ELSE group is to deliver the actions contained in the plan

AP – It is important that Whitefriars attend the meetings

Link to Advice Services Coventry – what kind of advice are they giving on “in work benefits”

AP . As CSU are part of ASC Aide Fitzgerald with meet with Sue Bent for initial discussions.

AP - Any Comments to Dean Marjoram

Housing Theme Group Employment Planning

Jane and Nigel are attending this theme group meeting on 25th November to discuss how we can work together. Initial meeting with Dave Sternberg to discuss possible links. Suggestions from the group included Green Housing methods, SL as training providers, National Voluntary Training Pathfinder. and LEP

Planning Communications Event

Carried Over

AOB

Dates of meetings – to be arranged to fit in with Strategic Group Meetings .

Frequency to be discussed

Bishop Street Post Office Redundancies – not looking as bad a first though, not likely to happen for 18 months .