

Learning, Skills & Employment (LSE) Theme Group  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2007

In attendance: Jane Beaver (JCP), Jane Malbasa (JCP), Alison Orr (CVSC), Juliette Verdier-Scott (CCC), Paul Cooper (CCC), Ann Turner (CCC), Jayne Pyper (CCC), Teresa Carroll (Adult Ed), Veronica Nesbitt (CCC), Hazel Mills (Connexions), Liz Barrett (Local Jobs), Nigel Wain (Coventry Partnership), Rebecca Young (CCC), Carol Jones (CCC), Geoff Hyde (CCC), Karen Linehan (JCP), Anne-Marie Tranter (City College), Tom Collins (Henley College), Dianne Williams (Chamber)

Apologies: Jane Johnstone (CSWP/nextsteps), Russell Moseley (Warwick Univ), Dee O'Donohue (Probation), Sally Archer (Henley), Nev Wells (Whitefriars), Dean Marjoram (LSC)

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Fund**

Juliette Verdier-Scott reported progress of theme group sponsored NRF projects following Q1 review; Jobs & Economy projects has assisted 1447 beneficiaries (99% of target); housing advice, and in-work support delivered exceeded profiles; 311 job outcomes had been achieved against a target of 389 (80%); projects look likely to have achieved output targets by end March 2008. Learning and Training projects are meeting the majority of output targets. Papers were issued providing full details.

JV led discussion on succession planning paper following two LSE sub-group meetings to consider. NRF projects are due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and there is no opportunity for further extensions. Proposals were put forward for three further pieces of work (1) to map provision against client journey model (2) to develop an integrated tracking system, and (3) to develop partnership capacity to respond to funding opportunities requiring a consortia approach. It was agreed that further meetings of the sub-group would be held to further develop proposals taking account of comments made.



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### **Employment Action Plan – Road Show**

Since the last LSE representatives of the group had met to develop a presentation and questions to be posed to other theme groups; volunteers had been identified to deliver the presentation at a succession of theme group meetings and briefing had been provided. NW had secured invitations to attend other groups, and AO, KL, JM, NW, and RY had all been involved in presentations to Equalities & Communities, Housing, Environment, Community Safety and Transport Theme Groups; dates had been agreed for the Cultural Partnership and Health Theme Group. Offers of support had been received from all of the themes. Initial feedback was provided in a paper prepared by Nigel Wain and it was agreed that on completion of the

Roadshow in January the offers would be collated and taken forward as part of the action plan for the coming year.

The Environment Theme Group had highlighted the need for creative consideration of the opportunities and challenges for the LSE arising from climate change. It was agreed that Bob Keith would be invited to deliver a presentation and creative thinking session at the January LSE meeting.

#### **ACTION JM**

It was agreed that the Employment Strategy Action Plan should be updated for 2008/9, commencing with a review and initial planning session in March; it was acknowledged that the plan must take account of the City Strategy and be responsive to new LAA & SCS priorities and indicators when agreed. It was noted that links need to be formed with sector skills councils with regard to recently published sector skills plans.



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#### **Local Area Agreement**

Feedback was provided on the process for and timescale for developing the new Local Area Agreement, and there was brief discussion of the national indicator set. Further updates will, be provided through the theme group.

RY and JM reported back following the recent 6 monthly review of the current LAA. Three LSE indicators – all relating to employment and workless levels, and narrowing the gap in priority neighbourhoods, particularly Foleshill – were assessed as red. Theme group representatives attended a review with GO to explain the issues, and report on improvement actions. GO were satisfied with the range of activities in place which should generate improvements over the medium term.

Although focus is now moving to the new LAA, it was agreed that the following additional measures, designed to achieve quick wins, would be put into place:

- Refocus of Local Jobs activity to priority neighbourhoods especially Foleshill
- Targetted mainstream activity by JCP focussing on Foleshill
- Trialling of intensive partnership support, commencing with an initial cohort of IB claimants drawn from Foleshill

#### **City Strategy**

GH provided an update to the meeting. Further update information on the LEGI model and its fit with Deprived Area Funded provision to be delivered within the City Strategy was proposed for the next meeting.

#### **ACTION JM**

#### **Local Jobs**

LB reported back following a Local Jobs planning day on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007. An operational plan had subsequently been developed in response to identified priorities for the coming year. See attached report for further details.



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### **Employment Retention & Advancement Trials**

A presentation was delivered by Andy Poulson (JCP Derbyshire) on the recently concluded ERA trials to inform the work of the LSE. Information was provided on the return to work support and incentives offered during the trials, what worked, results, and cost. Information was additionally provided on DWP plans for national roll out to Lone Parents. Presentation attached.



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**Next meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 10-1.00pm, Oak Tree Court.**