

Learning, Skills & Employment (LSE) Theme Group Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2007

In Attendance: Jane Beaver, Jane Malbasa, Geraldine Tsakirakis, Juliette Verdier-Stott, Dean Marjoram, Geoff Hyde, Nigel Wain, , Rebecca Young, Nev Wells, Sue Iannantuoni, Jo Gowers , Elaine Spragget, Andrew Harrison, Janet McLean.

Apologies: Dee O'Donohue, Azfal Hussain, Veronica Nisbett, Dianne Williams, Steve Stewart, Jane Johnstone, Alison Orr, Priti Bharadwa Russell Moseley, Kate Lee, Ann Turner Shokat Lal, Alan Newbold.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### **NRF**

Andrew Harrison presented the findings from his evaluation of the projects – full programme summary report attached



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### Main Findings

Projects were compared against the original specification – in most cases the outputs were good but only working towards the outcomes.

Governance – Effective Project management and Steering groups are vital for delivery

Networking between projects is more likely to encourage progression than an imposed management steer.

Employer Engagement is not always effective- raising employers' expectation then not able to find customers to meet their needs.

What real difference has commissioning made?

**ACTION – A small 'sub-group' of people from the LSE theme, based on the original NRF commissioning group, would meet to:**

- a) Provide input into the NRF succession framework for the LSE portfolio of projects.
- b) Look into the report in more detail from a strategic perspective - what lessons can be learnt for mainstream service delivery and how can the theme group contribute to or support project succession in the broader sense?

### **Employment Strategy Action Plan - Delivery Plan**

Jane Malbasa put a proposal to the group that the Delivery Plan should be presented to the other theme groups of the Partnership to capture their

contributions to the worklessness agenda. Groups to be consulted are Equalities and Communities, Health, Community Safety, Transport and Health. A presentation and questions for each group on what we would like them to consider will be available. Volunteers from July meeting were Jane Johnson, Alison Orr, Diane Williams, Nigel Wain and Geraldine Tsakirakis.

**Action. - Names of any other LSE member interested in presenting to another theme group to Nigel Wain.**

### **Foleshill Cohort.**

JM briefed the meeting on an initiative where Jobcentre Plus has written to 500 customers in Foleshill who have been claiming Incapacity Benefit for 12 months or more. A letter was sent to the customers with a questionnaire which gives an indication on how far they are from being able to enter the labour market and what their barriers are. The package being used then enables us to “grade “ their readiness – Red , Amber or Green, and respond as appropriate

Green - ready and looking to go back to work - offered an interview

Amber - interested in looking for work in the future - information on alternative benefits, training etc

Red - not ready to go back to work - supporting leaflet and information on additional benefits.

As a result we will have a cohort of customers in Foleshill who need/want support. In the Employment Strategy Action plan one of the actions is to identify a cohort of customers to work closely with, prioritise access to services and ensure a partnership approach.

**Action – JM to get a group together – Geoff Hyde, Balvinder Nagi and a representative from a Foleshill based organisation - to discuss options of how we can respond to the needs of this group.**

### **Leitch Recommendation Update**

Dean Marjoram informed to group that the LSC will be taking forward the recommendations and they would be included in their Annual Statement of Priorities which would be published mid November.

Main thrust of Leitch is to integrate and merge the Employment and Skills Agendas. As a result JCP and LSC are working together on a number of fronts - LSC contracting provision directly for JCP customers, Joint working with employers , IAG- Adult Careers Service co-locating with JCP (pilot) .