

## Third Sector Employability Forum

Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>: 1.30pm \*Hybrid\*

### *Present:*

Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)	Jason Thomson (Street League)
Kris Wesencraft (Enable)	Angela Moohan (The Larder)
Beverley Francis (Volunteering Matters)	Garry Walker (The Larder)
Chuks Ododo (DataKirk)	Helen Davis (WLYAP)
Lee Anne Menzies (Volunteering Matters)	Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco)

### *Apologies:*

Alan McCloskey (VSGWL)	June Dickson (Environmental Health CIC)
Rosemary Sleith (Open Door Project)	Raymond Branton (FCDWL, Play Works)

*Guest Speaker:* Pegs Bailey (Third Sector Employability Partnership Engagement Manager)

### **1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting and introductions were shared.

### **2. Guest Speaker – Pegs Bailey**

- Pegs has met with lots of people to find out about their experiences and relationships with their LEP, exploring what's going well and where there are challenges.
- TSI Capacity and Representation.
- Commissioning and Oversight – exploring where have things gone wrong (i.e. lack of clear strategy whilst continuing to deliver a service)
- Local Third Sector capacity / employability provision
- Scottish approach to service design / voice of lived experience – it's not happening at strategic level in many places inc West Lothian
- Conclusion: TSI – LEP engagement categorisation categories [draft]: Thriving / Working / Top-Heavy / Name only.
- Relationships between LEP and TSI is critical, list of factors which affect relationships i.e. changing staff, management structure, policy context.

### Questions / Discussion.

- The Future - Each employability area should have a strategy which is based on the demographics of area which has identified needs.
- What role will Pegs play supporting TSIs especially in issue of procurement? Pegs responded that it was very interesting to see the differences between different areas e.g. payment by results, lots, structures, payment of contact hours. Pegs wants to explore what are more useful ways. Works intensively in some areas and macro in other areas.
- Transition from Eff to No-one Left Behind has left a population of young people who are needing support without funding. Are other council areas having similar problems? Ringfenced funding was lost to parental funding. No reason why a LEP can't have a provision for young people which would show widespread multi age provision. Some areas are creatively using parental provision to reach young people (as part of the family). Training allowances are allowed.

- Councils are taking top slice sizeable chunks of No-One Left Behind for internal delivery, will there be LEP training on entitlements and powers locally? Peg confirmed long term capacity building work will be part of her role, focusing on relationships, attitude, and culture. Clear policy will help with this.
- WLC were clear SGov would not allow any creativity surrounding reaching young people via NOLB parental funding. Jason will see if he can find out from Street League's other operational areas what is happening then mentioned Dundee project who have an upskilling fund used for young people who come in and complete a course. Kris also spoke about experiences in other areas - advisors who are working with parents try to signpost young people.
- Chuks spoke about Edinburgh City Council and how technology is the language of the future. Pegs responded about the Diversity of landscape provision.
- <https://www.employabilityinscotland.com/news-events/news/employability-service-standards-published/>
- [pegs.bailey@tsi.scot](mailto:pegs.bailey@tsi.scot) – Contact Pegs anytime for advice

### 3. Previous minutes, matters arising and review of actions outstanding.

Circulated and agreed, no comments.

### 4. LEP (Beverley)

- Current reps Angela and Beverley co-chairs attend alternatively with Alan who is CEO of TSI.
- Finding better structure under George, who is ambitious to improve LEP.
- New WLC Child Poverty Officer presentation about her role.
- UK Government attend as a matter of routine which is a helpful development.
- Pfp progress report was given and will continue to give updates each LEP
- Discussion around initial physical draft of Investment plan for West Lothian. Discussions to follow on procurement provision and investment plan.
- Strategy day in workplan for next year. Beverley wondered was there a set of values or qualities across all provision in West Lothian? Like a manifesto.
- LEP teams channel now live allowing information sharing.
- Positive feedback received from those present about the update.

Angela has raised with George the issue of pots of money for young people. Last year money was awarded to private providers for young people who were nearer employment. Lee Anne raised issue of preventative spend, the young people who are furthest away from employment become adults who are furthest away from employment which then costs the public sector money. Fair Start funding stops end of March so no new referrals from April 1st. As this is paid on an outcome basis and sustainability, Scottish Government rationale is that the funding is being used in the following year by supporting current referrals. Kris asked where will people go? Discussion and comments on this.

### 5. Partnership for Parents

Initially lots of engagement with Third Sector organisations, stakeholders, and referral agencies. Current focus is customer engagement. First step is to encourage participants to undertake income maximisation assessment as we don't want anyone disadvantaged, pathway officer will then support them to develop their own tailored journey. Wide range of provision – upskilling, work experience, confidence, and wellbeing and into/in-work support. Developing holistic flexible programme.

Community based and successfully delivering with partners. Strong social media presence, promoting opportunities to engage such as fun events such as taking part in cupcake decorating, one pot cooking then gradually offering employability support.

**6. Service Delivery: Key Updates**

None at this time.

Proposal and agreement to move this earlier in Agenda.

**7. AOCB**

None

Date of next meeting – May 1st  
Online & at the Gateway offices