



Ellon Local Learning Community Partnership MEETING – 31st March 2021 – 1330

- **Welcome, present and apologies**

PRESENT: Nicola Twine, Jan Murdoch, Paul Walsh, Pauline Robertson, Sarah Ball, Paula Waugh, Bryan Mackay, Brenda Thorley, Maja Grigorjeva, Susan Ritchie, Annette Holland.

APOLOGIES: Barbara Taylor, Sarah Jane Bennison, Camille Russell, Lena North, Vikki Carpenter, Samantha Rawlins, Leslie Murison, Una Simpson, Eddie Coutts, Rhona Davidson.

- **Previous Meeting Notes / Minutes**

- **Employability** – local information and trends

Input and discussion led by Pauline Robertson (Employability Support Team) and Paul Walsh (DWP)

- **Partnership Responses to Community Needs** (following up from minutes of last meeting)
- **CLD Plan** – LLCP engagement process
- **Community support, participation & learning opportunities**
- **AOCB / DONM** -

EMPLOYABILITY

Presentation from Pauline (Please see Power Point PDF, Funded Provision PDF and links below)
Issues and Topics covered included:

- Employability – current data
- Nearly 50% fewer job postings than same time last year
- Kick Start initiative for 16 – 24 year olds, starting to come through, providing some hope.
- Apprentices being taken on in the Ellon, Meldrum and Tarves area. Could be a stronger buy in from young folk/client group.
- Employability Support – Slide of Partnerships providing services (Pauline to forward on further info).
- www.employmentconnect.org.uk
- Foyer: Young Persons Counselling Service and Young Parents Programme – not yet live (still recruiting)
- Growth areas – care sector most noticeable, training packages and work experience opportunities – care, construction, Cyber Security – developed by DWP and NESCOL.
- Other courses and opportunities reflecting current growth areas for Medical reception and admin work & Phlebotomy.

- PACE team – SDS – National Transition Training Fund, Targeted support for young people, Employment Connect website and Youth Guarantee Scheme.

Discussion – employability

Barriers to employment?

- Mental Health and confidence.
- Long Term employed, now unemployed – never had to negotiate the system before or engage with the job market.
- Digital skills barriers for applications
- Work experience and placements drying up

Current trends with young people

- Lot of children (who would have previously left and found work) choosing to stay on at school rather than leave after s4/5. Implications within school for timetabling and subject options. Need to develop curriculum to offer a wider range of less academic subjects for 5th and 6th year

Partnership work on Community Needs

- Food initiatives – Ellon well catered for, following up more elsewhere in Formartine (specifically Pitmedden) rather than just Ellon area.
- No further partnership work to report on.

CLD Plan & LLCP engagement Process

Taking a look at the learner consultation process to support the completion of the Aberdeenshire Partnership CLD Plan for the next 3 years.

So much has changed more than ever in this last year, that we feel it's really important to take stock and identify the Communities' CLD needs in the recovery phase of Covid - what has been the impact, how have needs and priorities changed for individuals, families and communities; and what should our delivery focus and engagement now reflect?

If partners feel it is important to support this process by asking a few of the learners/clients that you're engaged with what their priorities and needs now are and how we could meet those as partners I'd be very grateful for your help.

Offers of help to complete engagement surveys/conversations with learners

SAMH – clients who could be potential learners that they will invite

Sarah/ Employability Support – happy to engage with old, current and potential learners

School & CLD – S1s & Princes Trust

Libraries & CLD – volunteers

SDS – will ask young people struggling with lack of work experience, who may be accessing Employability Fund Training

Community support, participation & learning opportunities

Foyer

Young Parents Programme coming up — providing childcare and internet connectivity – delivered online initially

Bridge / Employability Support

Client newsletter created – to continue contact between participants and keep people active

SAMH

My Life Dynamic – Supporting Wellness Through Employment and Learning (SWEL) Project – delivered by resilience coaches.

Cultivate – good stepping stone to volunteering and confidence building to help people back into employment. Work in community gardens has paused.

John Muir Award.

Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival – May

Info to be shared with partners to support opportunities and delivery.

SDS

National Transition Training Fund – open until end of June, for people aged 25+ who are redundant and looking to upskill/reskill

CLD

6 Week Employability Course

SQA Accredited courses available to learners:

Volunteering Skills Award levels 3,4 and 5

Mental Health and Wellbeing levels 4 and 5

DONM

Wednesday 26th May 2021

LINKS & Resources for those seeking employment & training

Employment Connect

<https://employmentconnect.org.uk/>

- funded provision available through Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership.

For anyone who worked in energy, engineering and construction sectors

The Energy Skills Partnership have put together The National Energy Efficiency Transition Support and Heat Pump Training Fund to support those affected by the pandemic.

The fully funded courses, offered by nine Scottish Colleges, (NESCOL being one of them) are aimed at upskilling and enhancing the qualifications of individuals aged 25 or

older who are redundant or at risk of being made redundant. To find out more visit <https://esp-scotland.ac.uk/energy-efficiency-transition-training/>

National Transition Training Fund

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/national-transition-training-fund>



[National Transition Training fund | My World of Work](#)

If you are currently under threat of redundancy, or have been made redundant at any time from the 1st March 2020 and are aged 25 or over, you can access an industry recognised qualification to help you gain employment.

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

ITAs

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-training-accounts-ita>



[SDS Individual Training Accounts \(ITA\) | My World of Work](#)

Get up to £200 towards the cost of a training course with an SDS Individual Training Account (ITA). Use the money to build the skills you need for a job.

www.myworldofwork.co.uk