

Productive Skills for Devon

Friday 1st February 2008, 2pm Start, Larkbeare House

Present:

Tim Jones (Chair)
Andrew Lightfoot
Jeremy Filmer-Bennet
Liz Abel
Tony Skeel
Steve Smith
John Willis
Alison Cox
Carolyn Webster
Philip Done
Chris Jones

Charlotte Hanson
Tim Beavon
Geoff Hallet
Philip Oldfield
Craig Marshall
Andrew Ashley
Tracy Field
Karen Chapman
Trevor Day
Leanne Crawford (Scribe)

Apologies:

Anne Barnett
Lynne Del Greco

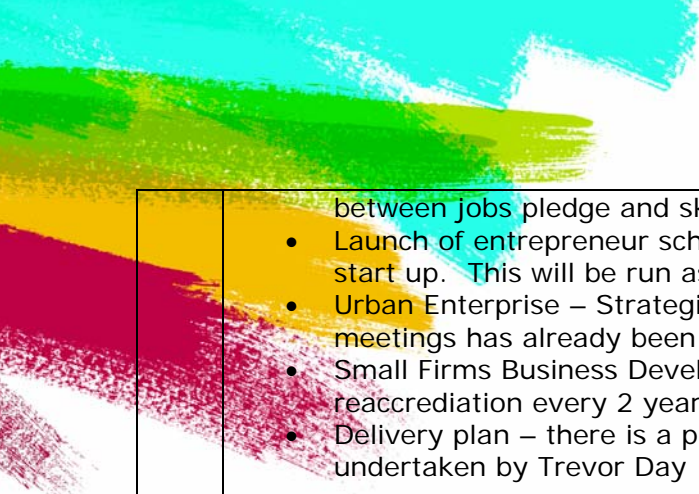
Irene Chapman

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| 1.0 | Welcome and Introductions |
| | Introductions round the table were given. |
| 2.0 | Cornwall Works presentation |
| | <p>Carolyn Webster gave a presentation on the Cornwall Works programme (Appendix 1), delivered through the Cornwall LAA. It started as an Objective 1 programme which aimed to reduce worklessness by addressing spatial and thematic barriers to employment. Cornwall Works has now become strategic and is the brand for Cornwall. Job Centre Plus has ensured that the strategy works in partnership with and through others to provide a sustainable pathway to employment for individuals. It was reiterated that Cornwall Works is not a project but a strategy that will outlive any short term funding streams, and it will provide a continuous programme for local communities.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is to enable people to stay and progress in work. Identified within the strategy are several key points, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues on inclusion (often the most expensive activity)• Prevention work/early intervention to long term unemployment• A Bottom Up approach• A Top Down approach, i.e. joined up funding and services, with progress being made in Cornwall with the Health Service in particular• Economic growth• Multi-agency approach• Business and employment support, with businesses signed up to a Workforce Agenda• Dissemination of good practice and evaluation <p>A key outcome of the strategy is to produce a workforce with employability skills. To facilitate this, a "passport to work" has been developed that allows individuals and their employers to monitor progress in the workplace, with evidence written in a passport style document. Local businesses are requested to be passport friendly and to support the initiative.</p> |

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| | <p>Targets of the strategy include stretch targets, e.g. supporting 250 incapacity benefit claimants through the strategy. There is also an enabling fund to buy in support where necessary.</p> <p>To address the inclusion issue, a number of projects were initiated to target people through areas they are passionate about, e.g. the “kick off” project provided a level 1 qualification in football coaching and also enabled several participants to access employment.</p> <p>To address prevention, one pilot project was run in conjunction with Young Enterprise South West to target individuals who are NEET or at risk fro becoming NEET. There are three teams in Cornwall that have been very successful.</p> <p>The advantage of having an overall strategy is knowing where to slot in new initiatives as they arise, including funding streams, e.g. skills for jobs tender, where funding was routed through the LAA. The strategy has also delivered the Routeways programme.</p> <p>Cross support from other agencies has also been helpful in terms of sourcing and accessing funding, which is highlighted in the degree of partnership activity, which has included a successful bid for £600,000 to reduce child poverty.</p> <p>It was questioned whether there is a similar scheme in Devon or if any are planned. It was stated that there is currently a worklessness group in Devon which is beginning the same process as Cornwall. A similar group also existed in Plymouth, which led to the Plymouth Works programme, however this had a different approach, i.e. research to assess delivery. It was reiterated that partnership working is key for success in these groups, which should have a number of linkages in all sectors and employers.</p> <p>There have been 4 pilots for some of this work in Devon to date in Illfracombe, Bideford, Princetown and Exeter.</p> <p>It was stated that there is a need to align current initiatives to provide a more coherent system, and that the success of schemes will depend on the individuals involved. Cornwall Works is approaching 3 years of delivery, although the first 18 months included set up. Post employment support is also provided by a single point of contact for both individuals and employers, with each post sourced through the strategy receiving on going training.</p> <p>There is also a website, which provides information and advice for individuals, employers and providers, and it aims to promote everyone’s activities.</p> <p>Carolyn was warmly thanked for the presentation.</p> |
| <p>3.0</p> | <p>News from DWP/LSC ESF tenders</p> <p>DWP – invitations to full application have been issued, however two of those invitees, both local providers, have decided not to proceed, as they felt the financial risk was too high. The remaining bidders are large contractors from outside Devon.</p> <p>Action: Invite successful tenderers to up coming meeting (17th March has been set for the precontract award, with full contracts issued in April)</p> <p>It was stated that there will be emphasis on local input before technical appraisal.</p> |

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| | <p>It was also stated there needs to be some acknowledgement of CVS support.</p> <p>LSC – proposals submitted have been through the appraisal process and are currently with the regional group to ratify the decisions of the appraisal process. Tenderers should find out mid February who the preferred bidders are, with precontract issues to be resolved.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Update on Devon Economic Strategy and LAA</p> |
| | <p>The Devon Economic Strategy will be printed mid February, with the launch of the document to follow. The supporting documents will only be available in electronic format and are already available in draft on the website http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/business/devoneconomicstrategy.htm</p> <p>A diagram showing the relationship of the PS4D partnership with other groups in the county was circulated for comment (see attached).</p> <p>Draft forms were circulated regarding the skills and worklessness outcomes of the LAA.</p> <p>Action: conversation on targets and delivery indicators via email to assist in template development</p> <p>It was confirmed that SLIM have been commissioned to do more work on evidence over the next 2 months.</p> <p>Action: a seminar to discuss key indicators was being arranged for 7 March at 1.30pm</p> <p>Karen Chapman confirmed that she has been receiving feedback on the criteria for the LAA selection via the worklessness group.</p> <p>Action: any further feedback on the skills template and criteria should be forwarded to Andrew Lightfoot</p> |
| 5.0 | <p>Skills Brokering</p> |
| | <p>It was stated that skills brokerage will be a recurring theme on the PS4D agenda.</p> <p>It was reported that an inaugural meeting of the North Devon Brokerage Network will be held on 8th February.</p> |
| 6.0 | <p>Progress on Delivery Plan</p> |
| | <p>Infrastructure – the group had looked at infrastructure needed and that already in place, i.e. FE colleges, space availability etc, North Devon in view of college merger with East Devon etc. The Regional Spatial Strategy has initiated change in Devon. Progress is being fed into the DEP via the infrastructure group.</p> <p>Reviewing indicators – SLIM work has been commissioned for the LAA and other local work. A workshop has been organised for the afternoon of 7th March at Larkbeare.</p> <p>Public sector workers – LSC money has been channelled through DCC for work with public sector employees, particularly children’s services. The public sector will be expected to deliver more and show more leadership in future. It was agreed this also should be targeted at elected members.</p> <p>ESOL – a publicity programme has been organised. The pilot programme finishes at the end of March, and from the next financial year the course will be offered at £400. A bid has also gone into Skills for Life LSC tender and to Devon</p> |

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| | <p>Renaissance. There is also a small amount of funding available for those in geographical areas outside the main funding areas.</p> <p>Functional skills – a target has been set to reduce the number of those without functional skills from 14% to 5% by 2012. Leitch has had a huge impact on targets and highlights a need to tighten up on functional skills in qualifications, with a challenge for Devon to deliver in the rural area. It was stated that Devon Renaissance has funding available for functional skills.</p> <p>Action: Task group to be set up to address functional skills issue, members to include John Willis, Craig Marshall, Tony Skeel, and Liz Abel, with an additional link to Job Centre Plus. Others wishing to become involved to contact John Willis directly.</p> <p>Communications – Devon & Cornwall Business Council have been commissioned to run a series of events, the first of which will be in North Devon on 4th April. Further information on this will be available at the next meeting. A learning fair will be held on 12th February at Exeter University, with a focus on 14-19.</p> <p>Workforce development groups – For North Devon the last meeting was held on 11th January. The Exeter and Heart of Devon group are meeting again on the 4th February. The South Devon group are meeting on 5th March, to ensure the LSC bid result can be discussed. The composition of these groups still varies.</p> <p>Local initiatives – work with the skills starter scheme in Torridge has continued with an application to Devon Renaissance. Money in our budget is still unallocated and could be available to support relevant local initiatives.</p> <p>Action: dates of meetings and events to be circulated</p> |
| 7.0 | <p>Notes of meeting held 23rd November 2007 and any other matters arising</p> <p>Minutes agreed.</p> |
| 8.0 | <p>News round up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torridge graduate skills project is up and running and on track • Ilfracombe hospitality and security recruited well, and good links developing with worklessness • Connexion's projections show they have met their NEET targets • Update on ERDF, programme is being launched on 4th February • Devon Probation Service have expressed an interest in working with the Devon CC ESF bid if successful • Connexions - Work in Teignmouth to support work experience is due to start shortly • Connexions - Working on FE catalyst programme for industry placements • Connexions – Devon renaissance is supporting some work in South, Mid and East Devon around Key Stage 3 • Construction Skills are no longer supporting curriculum centres • A breakfast meeting will be held on 12th February at the Devon Motel in Exeter, which will be an education and business summit which will be addressed by Juliet Williams, Chair of the RDA. This will then be rolled out. • Early stages of development of a vocational centre in West Devon • Tavistock and Okehampton job centres have closed • Two new office spaces are available in Tavistock at the Civic Centre • The Institute of Learning will be in Exeter during 19th February – contact Craig for further information • Local employment partnerships Job Centre Plus and Train to Gain – link |



between jobs pledge and skills pledge

- Launch of entrepreneur scholarship in Torbay with 15 places for business start up. This will be run as a pilot with a view to regional funding
- Urban Enterprise – Strategic Investment Framework the 1st of four meetings has already been held to discuss the enterprise culture
- Small Firms Business Development Initiative – a programme for reaccreditation every 2 years
- Delivery plan – there is a proposal to formalise the work currently undertaken by Trevor Day

The next meeting will be held on 9th April at the Ockment Centre, Okehampton, when the agenda will include initial discussions on a new 3 year Delivery Plan for PS4D.

Action: Proposals for future venues to be fed back to Leanne

Appendix 1

Over 37,000 jobless people in Cornwall of working age claim benefits

27,300 claim benefits due to ill-health



Jobless offenders are more likely to re-offend than those who gain work

They are 13 times more likely to have been in care



“When I was 16 I was classed as a priority but now I am 19 they don't give a toss”



In Cornwall two out of five jobseekers say lack of transport is a barrier to getting a job



Disadvantaged people are more likely to have multiple needs and to rely on several services

When services do not work together people suffer



An offender in Cornwall can have a heroin addiction needing £150 a day....

.....requiring an annual income of £70,000



In 2001 18,000 children in Cornwall were living in Poverty



Debt, mental health and drug and alcohol abuse are reported as key barriers to work by employment advisers in Cornwall



1 in 7 of all hospital admissions in Cornwall are due to alcohol



You are less likely to be in work if you are a lone parent, over 50, a member of a minority ethnic group or have a disability



“I really wanted to do that work experience thing but my dad told me to stay on the dole and said he would kick me out if I did it”



One in five people in Cornwall paying cash for their shopping would not know if they had been given the correct change



In Cornwall it costs £630 a week to keep a family in Bed and Breakfast



In Cornwall
The Dept of Work and Pensions Pay

£800,000

in working age benefits each working day



On average 18.3% of working age people in Cornwall claim “out of work” benefits

In deprived neighbourhoods this rises to 50%



“I started work and it was great but my mum wanted me at home.....then she took an overdose to make me stay”



A person who has received Incapacity Benefit for 6 months has a 50% chance of remaining on that benefit
4 years later



Once incapacitated for 12 months the average duration of stay is around
8 years.....



... and you are more likely to retire or die than to go back to work

