



**EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011  
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH**

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<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Cllr Tom Buchanan	City of Edinburgh Council
	Louise Sinclair	Gracemount High School
	Georgie Robertson	Childcare Connections
	Alex Galloway	Jewel & Esk Valley College
	Gayle Henderson	WeAct
	Vivienne Robinson	CEC Working for Families
	Stuart MacFarlane	CEC Working for Families
	Andy Hunter	EVOC
	Natalie Ronaldson	Home Scotland
	Douglas Jeffrey	CEC Community Learning & Development
	Scott Donkin	CEC Services for Communities (Chair)
	Margaret Campbell	CEC Services for Communities

<b><u>APOLOGIES:</u></b>	John Carruthers	Apex
	Hildegard Wylezaleck	Apex
	Jenny Ewing	Capital City Partnership
	Evelyn Kilmurry	CEC Services for Communities

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1 **Para 3.2 Edinburgh Jobs Fund:** Update had been requested. Noted that Mags had included figures within the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> November, for information.
- 3.2 **Review of Community Plan:** Scott Donkin reported that discussions had taken place with all the sub groups regarding the 2008-11 Community Plan which was about to end and the outcomes of which will be reported to the Council in due course. Work has begun on the 2011-14 plan with a number of action points having been promoted by the Sub Groups. The Neighbourhood Team is about to start consultation with the wider community in a variety of forums and venues eg stall at Morrisons. Scott hoped that this phase would be completed by the end of March after which the new plan would be formulated.

#### 4. **JET PROGRAMME (Paper Circulated)**

- 4.1 A report providing progress on the JET Programme had been circulated for information. It was noted that programme was now delivered to 300 students from 21 of the 23 city high schools with Castlebrae and Craigroyston being the exceptions. The group were impressed with the programme's retention rate of 88% and noted that the young people are entering and sustaining positive post-school destinations, many taking up employment and modern apprenticeships with the JET placement employer. The group were also impressed with the number of and calibre of companies offering placements.
- 4.2 Louise Sinclair raised concern that the project may be becoming a victim of its own success as the level of support given to the pupils has reduced albeit for valid reasons. She appreciated that the staff were stretched and did a very good job but was concerned that further programme expansion may cause difficulties in this area. She did however make the point that other schools new to the programme will not be aware of the previous levels of support provided to students during the Gracemount pilot.
- 4.3 Georgie Robertson asked that in future reports "Gracemount AS" be changed to "Childcare Connections AS".
- 4.4 Vivienne Robinson made the point that the JET Programme should not be seen as a replacement for vocational provision within the schools.
- 4.5 Cllr Buchanan suggested as this was a citywide programme the Neighbourhood Partnership Joint Convenors group may well be keen to receive the report along with a presentation from Susan Milne, JET Development Manager. Mags will refer the matter to Natalie Hoy, Neighbourhood Manager West Edinburgh.

***Action: Mags Campbell***

- 4.6 In closing, the ETE group congratulated the JET Programme on its achievements and looked forward to receiving further progress reports in the future.

#### 5. **SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS (Paper Circulated)**

- 5.1 The ETE Group noted that the comparative percentages showed that overall both local schools have improved over the last year which Gracemount High School now showing positive outcome results in excess of the overall figures for Edinburgh. However, it was recognised youth unemployment overall is on the rise and the unemployment data paper shows youth unemployment within the area at c.30% which is a disproportionate representation of young people.

#### 6. **UNEMPLOYMENT DATA (Paper Circulated)**

- 6.1 The paper prepared by Madelaine Traynor providing data on unemployment all the wards showed total unemployment in Liberton Gilmerton, as at December 2010, at 885 ie a rise of 84% from December 2006. The rise in women and young people unemployment being of particular concern.
- 6.2 Scott Donkin made the point that the figures showed pockets of deprivation. Knowledge of the demographics will assist the Partnership target specific areas/groups.

- 6.3 Vivienne Robinson made the point that the changes to the benefit system and the introduction of conditionality due to take affect from April 2011 will inevitably have an impact on the statistics, particularly relating to women, as they move from Income Support to Job Seekers Allowance.
- 6.4 Cllr Buchanan queried the overall rate of 3.0% for Edinburgh as noted in the paper. It was his understanding the figure was more in the region of 3.4% - 3.7% and rising. Mags agreed to check with Madelaine. (*Madelaine confirmed the figure of 3.0% was correct as per NOMIS at December 2010*)

**Action: Mags Campbell**

## 7. **EMPLOYABILITY PRIORITY**

### 7.1 **Get On After Leaving School (“GOALS”) (Paper Tabled)**

- 7.1.1 Vivienne Robinson reported that a full evaluation of the course was yet to be completed. The paper tabled contained information on the participant's evaluation.
- 7.1.2 The course had a high retention rate ie 8 started, 7 completed. From this the following has been achieved (some doing more than one outcome)
- 3 people at College (Jewel & Esk)
  - 1 Person doing European Computer Driving Course
  - 3 People doing Sports/Play Volunteering (Telford)
  - 2/3 Volunteering – Social Care (via Volunteer Centre)
  - 1 Employed
  - 2 Applying for Work
- 7.1.3 The costs have yet to be fully assessed but have largely been offset against existing budgets. The course was dependent on help from the course partners not least Apex and Jewel & Esk Valley College.
- 7.1.4 The course was well received and Vivienne was confident that those who participated are now better placed to secure a positive destination. In terms of future courses, discussions now need to take place with the various partners to establish how they wish to progress. Engagement with the young people is key. Various strategies were attempted to attract the young people all of which were unsuccessful. At the end of the day it was word of mouth that secured the cohort of participants.
- 7.1.5 Douglas Jeffrey reported that transition work with colleges was being considered at a strategic level via the CLDU Partnership.
- 7.1.6 The ETE group agreed that the model worked well and provided an excellent, seamless transition to a positive destination for the young people who participated. However, the group were aware that competition for college places is increasing. Alex reported that if individuals are on a care-leavers course then he can add extra weight to their application.
- 7.1.7 Alex Galloway reported that the Jewel & Esk “Baton Project” had recently received a gold medal for its customer service.

7.1.8 Vivian reported that the GOALs personnel were meeting the following week to discuss the way forward. She confirmed that if sufficient community based activities could be sourced then this would be an advantage.

7.2 **Little France Working Group (Notes of Meeting 17/1/11 Circulated):** The minutes of the Employability Group noted. Noted that developments have stalled due to the recession. Concern that due to Government funding decisions the Sick Childrens Hospital may be a smaller facility than first envisaged.

7.3 **Citywide Employability Strategy**

7.3.1 Gayle Henderson reported that WeAct service was progressing well. Her colleagues Dave and Hannah had engaged with 100 people, 45 of whom on a one-to-one basis. The drop-in service runs each morning at Gilmerton Community Centre. Their main source of referrals is via the Jobcentre 18-24 Advisers who have been extremely helpful. WeAct are keen to receive more local referrals.

7.3.2 The Just Do It Course was extended from five to 10 weeks due to the bad weather. The course started with 10 and finished with six. Of these:

- 1 – Apprenticeship
- 1 – Voluntary placement with childcare provider
- 3 – College
- 1 – Access Course

7.3.3 The course is now running in Oxbgangs and Tynecastle and will be re-run in Liberton/Gilmerton after Easter.

7.4 **Community Learning & Development:** CLD continuing to work with Dunedin Canmore – Outreach Initiative Working with Christmas School Leavers. The Youth Worker in the school working with a group of young people some of whom have maintained contact with the agency since leaving school.

8. **AOCB**

8.1 **Budget:** It was noted that papers relating to Council's budget proposals for discussion on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February were available on line. Cllr Buchanan was of the opinion that the cuts would be in the region of 8%. On this basis it was felt that Liberton/Gilmerton would be able to manage this cut. However, Cllr Buchanan cautioned that future cuts were likely to be much more severe.

8.2 Douglas Jeffrey reported that the Gracemount Youth & Community Centre building at Lasswade Road had now transferred into the full control of the Council.

8.3 Georgie Robertson reported that the Craigour Breakfast Club was running again but the numbers of children participating was down.

- 8.4 **Childcare Connections:** Georgie reported that figures for Childcare Connections were down as a number of parents had removed their children due to their being made redundant. In partnership with Project Scotland, Childcare Connections had agreed to give placements to 4 x 16/18 year olds ie one on each site. In addition they are about to have four students from Telford College starting; again one per site.
- 8.5 **One-Stop-Shop:** Alex Galloway raised the issue of a one stop employment shop for South Edinburgh. It was agreed this should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

***Action: Mags Campbell***

- 8.6 **The Link:** Scott Donkin reported that the issue of The Link due for circulation in March would be the last due to the withdrawal of funding.

9. **DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street  
Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street  
Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street