



**EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010  
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH**

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<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Georgie Robertson	Childcare Connections
	Gayle Henderson	WeAct
	John Carruthers	Apex
	Gilbert Clark	Local Resident
	Vivienne Robinson	CEC Working for Families
	Stuart MacFarlane	CEC Working for Families
	Douglas Jeffrey	CEC Community Learning & Development
	Evelyn Kilmurry	CEC Services for Communities (Chair)
	Margaret Campbell	CEC Services for Communities

<b><u>APOLOGIES:</u></b>	Cllr Tom Buchanan	City of Edinburgh Council
	Tina Bell	Home Scotland
	Jenny Ewing	Capital City Partnership
	Hildegard Wylezaleck	Apex
	Helen Ewing	Volunteer Centre South Edinburgh
	Alex Galloway	Jewel & Esk Valley College
	Scott Donkin	CEC Services for Communities
	Tommy McLean	CEC Community Learning & Development

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 **Breakfast Clubs (Para 3.3):** Georgie Robertson reported that she had been unable to meet with Carol Cameron, Head Teacher of Craigour Primary. It was noted the school's breakfast club was no longer in operation but Childcare Connection's club remained operational. Gilmerton Primary breakfast club also not operating; unlikely to re-start due to lack of demand.

- 3.2 **Edinburgh Jobs Fund - £180,000 (Para 6.3.2)**: The group asked if there had been any developments with this initiative. Margaret Campbell to email Jenny Ewing for an update for circulation to the group. *(Figures received after the meeting from Jenny – 27 people at initial interview stage; 2 starting work in October, 4 starting work in November. All the clients engaged with so far are aged 17-19. The staff team has been in contact with a long list of services and projects across the city seeking referrals.)*

**Action: Mags Campbell**

- 3.3 **Caselink (Para 6.3.5)**: Noted that Jenny Ewing had made arrangements to have this issue placed on the agenda of the Neighbourhood Partnership Convenors Group.
- 3.4 **Impact of Benefit Changes (Para 7.4)**: Noted that Jenny Ewing had reported that Chris Nicoll of the Capital City Partnership was working on this issue and would report his findings in due course.

3.5 **Learning Week:**

- 3.5.1 Vivienne Robinson reported that the focus for the Learning Week was on "learning and education opportunities" in South Edinburgh and ran from 23rd - 27<sup>th</sup> August through the outreach of the Get On Mobile Information Unit which visited eight different locations, for 10 half day sessions, to the following:

- Gracemount Shops
- Southhouse Shops
- Valley Park Community Centre
- Inch Shops
- Morrisons supermarket car park
- Moredun library
- Gilmerton Community Centre
- Cameron Toll Shopping Centre

- 3.5.2 The sessions were supported with colleagues from Community Learning, Libraries and Neighbourhood Services joining local and city wide employability services staff which provided the additional benefits of the networking opportunity to help staff integrate service provision if possible.

- 3.5.3 Many of the visitors to the unit have general queries and their details are not logged on management information system. Of those that were logged on Caselink, we have 33 recorded referrals - 10 for employment access services [30%], 6 for learning and skills guidance, 6 for housing advice [18%] and 5 for money/benefits advice [15%].

- 3.5.4 On the basis of the uptake of service information, range of requests including housing advice and money/benefits which are a consistently regular feature for Get On, it would be beneficial to consider repeating "A Get On Week in the South Neighbourhood" next year. In the context of putting this on the calendar now and based on this year's uptake, it certainly should involve housing colleagues, also potentially be scheduled a week later to allow for more distribution of the Adult Community Education Programme and allow parents with children

returning to school to be more settled in to their new routines. A final consideration would be for all key area based services to back up the mobile service with related displays, primarily a pointer for the local office and libraries.

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

4.1 The paper prepared by Madelaine Traynor providing data on unemployment within the Neighbourhood Partnership was noted. The figures illustrate a disproportionate representation of young people within the overall numbers of unemployed people. The figures also demonstrate that unemployment in women within the neighbourhood continues to rise from 120 in September 2007 to 247 in September 2010. Liberton Gilmerton has an unemployment rate of 4.2% which ranks it as the seventh worst ward in the city. A further area for concern is that this increase represents the second biggest percentage increase of all the wards ie an increase of +9.1% compared to the city at +0.2%.

#### 5. **EMPLOYABILITY PRIORITY**

##### 5.1 **Get On After Leaving School (“GOALS”) (Paper Circulated)**

5.1.1 Stuart McFarlane reported that the programme is an Employability and Personal Development programme for 16-20 year olds and is being run by CEC Working for Families and Apex Scotland. Participants will develop new skills, achieve a sports leadership qualification, and prepare for the world of work. The programme is now in week five of 10 and the presently there are eight participants which represents full retention.

5.1.2 The programme is a multi agency initiative and includes contributions from Business Gateway, the Volunteer Centre, Careers Service and others. Discussions are currently taking place with WeAct regarding aftercare for the participants.

5.1.3 The programme will be monitored three times throughout the 10 weeks and participants are required to keep a weekly diary.

5.1.4 The Group congratulated GOALS on their success in managing a 100% retention rate so far which is a considerable achievement.

5.2 **Little France Working Group (Paper Circulated):** It was noted a workplan had been prepared and contacts made with employment organisations. It was noted that it would recommended to the Little France Working Group that an employability advisory group be set up comprising practitioners which would concentrate on the employability issues. John Carruthers requested Apex be included on this group.

### 5.3 **Citywide Employability Strategy**

- 5.3.1 Gayle Henderson reported that the WeAct had held an official launch on 25<sup>th</sup> October. They are running an employment drop-in two days per week at Gilmerton Community Centre and also a beginners IT and employability course on Friday mornings. They are planning to run further drop-ins throughout South Edinburgh including the libraries.
- 5.3.2 A “Just Do It” five week course starts on 9<sup>th</sup> November with 10 participants. The course runs three days per week and focuses on employability. Young people will be working towards a Youth Achievement Bronze Award which sits at the same level as the SQEF Standard Grade albeit not equivalent. The majority of participants are ex pupils of Liberton High School. WeAct will provide an evaluation in due course. It was noted that this course was similar to the GOALS course but it was accepted that there was more than enough local young people for this not to be a problem.
- 5.3.3 GOALS is viewed as the first line of engagement with young people many of whom have a variety of health and/or social problems which need to be addressed. WeAct are planning to run a second “Just Do it” course in January. It may be possible for the GOALS participants to progress onto Just Do It.
- 5.3.4 WeAct have strong links with the Jobcentre. They have a desk in South St Andrew Street. In addition the 18-24 Jobcentre Advisers have begun to make referrals.

## 6. **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLAN 2008-2011 (Update circulated)**

- 6.1 The group considered the updated community plan which showed that significant achievements had been made over the past three years. However, they acknowledged that the unemployment position, exacerbated by the current financial climate still show evidence of need.
- 6.2 The group were asked to consider whether or not unemployment be retained as a priority in the Community Plan 2011-14 and if so should the current emphasis be amended. A number of issues were raised and suggestions put forward including:
- 6.2.1 Apex would be keen to have a drop-in facility within South Edinburgh.
- 6.2.2 There would be opportunities for the colleges to provide bespoke courses to upskill local labour to enable them to exploit any opportunities at Little France.
- 6.2.3 Does there need to be an emphasis on women? It is anticipated that the proposed future conditionality of benefits will see a rise in women returners as they are forced to seek employment when their child reaches a certain age. In terms of women ex offenders should we consider running a similar programme to the Apex “Think Again” Programme? The affordability of childcare will be major factor in low income homes. It was noted there is no subsidised childcare provision within the area for children under 5 years old.

- 6.2.4 Young people aged c.17 who have left school and not in work or further education can disappear from the system. They are not eligible to claim benefits in their own right nor can parents claim benefits in respect of them ie Child Benefit.
- 6.2.5 The Partnership needs to assess, quickly, whether the current mix of service is actually reaching the target groups.
- 6.2.6 Review how we reach young people – GOALs did considerable work to advertise their course including the distribution of 90 leaflets, Careers Scotland and Skills Development Scotland informing their client group and an Open Day, all of which resulted in no response. In the end it was word of mouth that brought forward the participants. The Partnership should investigate the use of text messaging, social networking and other methods used by young people.
- 6.2.7 There are currently six different organisations offering employment help within the area. This could be confusing. Do we need a one-stop-shop within South Edinburgh?
- 6.3 Evelyn thanked everyone for their contribution and asked that any further evidence of need be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 6.4 The Group agreed formally, that Priority 1 – Improve the Employment Opportunities for the Community be retained within the Community Plan 2011-14.

7. **COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

- 7.1 CLD still waiting on completion of citywide strategy.

8. **AOCB**

- 8.1 The group were reminded that the Partnership is hosting a *You Said, We Did* event on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November at Society Hall. The event is aimed at giving local residents the opportunity to discuss, with a variety of agencies, the work they have done over the past three years in working towards the priorities outlined in the Community Plan.

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

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street  
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