



Note of Meeting of
Fife Employability Forum
Wednesday 11 February 9.30 – 11.00am
Roths Halls, Glenrothes

This was a shortened Employability Forum with updates from key policy partners summarised below. More than 45 people attended the Employability Forum. This was followed by a combined Employability and Third Sector Health and Social Care Forum details of which can be found [here](#).

Opportunities Fife Partnership

Adam Dunkerley gave a brief update on the situation with regard to European Social Investment Funds in Scotland and Fife in particular. Fife has been allocated a total of £7.3m for employability pathway activity and a further £1.95m for poverty and social inclusion activity for the period 2015-2020. Detail of what activity the latter funding pot can cover and the process for awarding bids is yet to be confirmed. For the employability pathway funding will be awarded initially for two years with the option of a further one year extension based on performance. The Partnership will then have the opportunity to review the profile of delivery before re-commissioning after a 'mid-term' review of the ESIF funding.

Scottish Government and the Local Authority lead partners have still not managed to agree on a costing and payment model for ESIF. As soon as OFP has solid information on this the process for commissioning provision will begin. Turn around times will be tight but the Council are committed to provision starting in April 2015.

Development work is underway on an ESIF performance reporting system known as EUMIS and the team at FORT are working to ensure the two systems can interact fully. The EUMIS system is due to go live in the summer of 2015.

Skills Development Scotland

Gavin Rennie gave an update on the School Leaver's Destination Report for Fife 2014. Details can be found in the attached slides. Fife has improved its SLDR figures repeatedly over the past few years – this has been the result of real partnership effort between SDS staff, the schools and Fife Council. Fife also has continuously higher than average figures for people moving into education contrasted with lower than average figures for people moving into employment from school. This may show that school leavers in Fife are aiming for higher skilled jobs, or that with a lack of jobs further education seems like a better option. The SLDR will be better able to evidence this once College's leaver statistics start being recorded as part of the picture.



Department of Work and Pensions

Eileen Cunningham gave an overview of plans for the digital inclusion agenda in the jobcentres and the roll out of Universal Credit – there is no date as yet for this coming to Fife. Her colleague Irene Donaldson gave an update on the Jobcentre Plus programme for re-locating former Remploy staff which was delivered in partnership with BRAG and FEAT in different locations in Fife. Irene gave some personal stories which exemplified the challenges and opportunities that are out there for many people with long-term or complex health problems and disabilities in moving into mainstream employment.

Fife Jobs Contract

Grant Leaburn of Fife Council updated the Forum on the performance to date of the Fife Youth Jobs Contract. He outlined that the new programme the 'Fife Jobs Contract' will be open to people from all ages and with multiple needs/barriers to employment. It can fund a post for up to six months depending on the role. Professionals and employers interested in sourcing Fife Jobs Contract funding for an opportunity simply need to contact the team via the Opportunities Fife website and complete a form. Links to the application form and guidance for completing it can be found <<here>>.

FORT updates

Joe MacIntyre outlined key developments with FORT most of which centre around upgrading and improvements to align with the new ESIF reporting system. Additional developments are around file sharing, connecting with the Opportunities Fife website to allow clients to eventually create their own FORT records, and the introduction of a marketing e-mail tool which will allow organisation to communicate with clients. A team of key users have been working with Joe to ensure that the new system is user friendly and improved. Joe confirmed that once the system is established there will be a roll out of training for all users.