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Pegs Bailey
Chair
Third Sector Employability Forum
Issued by email to: pegs@fva.org

24 March 2023

Dear Pegs,

Fair Start Scotland Update

I am writing to let you know that Ministers have taken the decision to extend the Fair Start Scotland referral period for a further 12 months. This will allow participants to join Fair Start Scotland up until 31 March 2024.

Much has happened to impact the employability landscape over the last twelve months, including the cost-of-living crisis, implementation of the Shared Prosperity Fund and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and resettlement of those displaced from the country. The decision to extend Fair Start Scotland will bring stability to the system and ensure that we continue to provide employability support to disabled people and those at risk of long-term unemployment over the next 12 months.

Fair Start Scotland is of course part of a wider offer of employability support in Scotland, with complementary place-based support being delivered through No One Left Behind by local partners. More than £110 million has been made available in the Scottish Budget for delivery of Scottish Government funded employability support in 2023-24.

I trust that you will find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne'.

Joanne Farrow
Employability Deputy Director

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