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## **THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

### **REPORT OF MEETINGS**

#### **Local Employability and Skills Partnership**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

#### **THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

*Working together to put our sector first*  
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

## KEY POINTS

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.**

1. The meeting started with a presentation from SDS on the review of the Regional Skills Investment Plan (RSIP).
2. The original plan was published in January 2019.
3. The review takes place in the context of Covid recovery and the skills shortage and difficulties in recruitment. The causes of this are unclear though likely linked to furlough, dated recruitment methods.
4. Youth unemployment is higher than adult at Scottish level.
5. The action plan of the Regional Skills Investment Plan will incorporate the action plan for the refreshed RSIP.
6. Food and drink, seasonal agriculture, seafood, haulage and distribution, H&SC all have extensive vacancies.
7. This is partly driven by departure of EU workers, other people leaving the region for more attractive jobs, all on top of an aging workforce.
8. Various actions can help - better recruitment, training, wages, employer incentives.
9. Themes are the same as those in the original RSIP:
  - a. Improving access to skills and training
  - b. Better meeting needs of all employers
  - c. Growing and developing the workforce
  - d. A region for young people
  - e. Creating a culture of enterprise and innovation
  - f. Future proofing the system
10. Draft LESP improvement plan has been based on the Improvement Service model.
11. A small group volunteered to review the proposals to address the LESP improvement actions. This group will report back to the LESP.
12. The recent YPG summit produced a report which raised concerns about gaps and duplications in the various provisions for young people and a systemic approach would be better. As a partnership we need to understand the landscape then translate our understanding into clear

outcomes actions. The LESP discussed any barriers to partnership working within its own activities.

13. YPG additional funding has been confirmed for 2021/22 of approx. £900,000 which has been added to the original budget to give a total £2.008m and will cover a range projects.
14. There was an update on the No One Left Behind Partnership (NOLB) 25+ group. There is still a gap in understanding about why there are people not taking up opportunities. The group were keen to understand. The group proposed a summit at the Bridge on 9 September to identify priorities and terms of reference.
15. In work poverty is also being explored as it too is not well understood.
16. The NOLB approach is led by Scottish Government. Phase one aligned funding for community work. The Phase 2 is about preparing proposals for the additional funding that will be available.
17. The LESP agreed to invite representatives from Fife Council and Fife Voluntary Action to present to the next meeting on 22 September. There is an established partnership between Fife Council and FVA on employability which is regarded as the most successful in Scotland from a third sector point of view.

