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## **THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

### **REPORT OF MEETINGS**

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

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

## 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. All LEP papers will be shared by email as well as Teams.
2. I pointed out that the minute of the last LEP meeting on 22/9/21 did not record the decision taken by the LEP to support the three recommendations made by Adam Dunkerley of Fife Council:
  - a. To implement a separation of functions to oversee the NOLB commissioning from service delivery in the local authority
  - b. To resource TSDG to support the third sector (resources to be identified)
  - c. To put in place a performance management framework with TSDG to oversee delivery of support
3. The LEP agreed again that these should be included in the minutes of 22/9/21 and would discuss them under item 3.3 Improvement Plan implementation.
4. I asked for information on another matter arising: at the last meeting Adam Dunkerley had explained that in Fife the level of investment by Fife Council in the TSI had led to a three-fold increase in funding going to the third sector (both local and national). I had asked for the figures for TS in D&G. Lynne Burgess said that she had talked to AD and this figure had referred to 'ESF' funded programmes only. In D&G there has been no TS involvement in ESF programmes. This is due to the TS not having 'the capacity to deal with the bureaucracy'. We agreed that it would be important to establish a baseline for TS in NOLB2.
5. Lynne Burgess went over the latest SG announcement for the intervention for long term unemployed, which included £5m for TS jobs; this is approximately £150k for TS in D&G; 47 Placements for D&G, 12 in TS. This can be increased if LEP agrees.
6. The LEP agreed to include a minimum of 12 TS placements with flexibility for more placements if they become available in TS.
7. I insisted that this is only feasible if the DGC employability team provide capacity and capability building support. LB said that this is not the role of the employability team. I explained that the SLWG of the TSDG Employability Forum is creating a development plan for TS employability organisations. This could be the basis of a discussion between DGC and TSDG. This was agreed and an update should be given at the next meeting.
8. There is flexibility within the LTU programme funding; with each placement allocated £10k for six months including on-costs. This would mean agreeing with each person the balance of hours in employment and training.

9. I made it clear that the time scales are forbidding for the third sector, however despite this several TSOs have expressed an interest with approximately ten placements. The deadline has been extended to 12 Nov.
10. D&G College has short one day courses which could be discounted or made available for free using SG funding. These would have to be agreed with employers, placement providers.
11. The D&G plan for the LTU programme has to be presented to SG by 26 Nov. This will provide a schedule, job descriptions, training, start and end dates and whether a phased approach might be needed for LTU people who might not be job-ready.
12. I suggested that other areas for this programme might be the priority areas for the Regional Economic Strategy such as hospitality, digital and from the RSIP CLD. This was to be considered.
13. The Tackling Poverty forum last week discussed how to work with young and isolated parents, this will be updated at the next LEP meeting.
14. I volunteered to be part of a SLWG to take forward the implementation of the LEP Improvement Plan; this will include the recommendations of the LEP 22/9/21 in relation to the Fife model as discussed above.
15. Phase 2 of NOLB and the related critical path have been confirmed by SG
16. The SG has provided deliverables to ensure national standardisation and local flexibility include: frameworks for LEP Partnership, Provider Support, Employer Recruitment and Job Creation. Tools include a shared measurement framework, data toolkit, 16+ datahub by SDS, national procurement framework. Standards include a customer standard, a service user toolkit, a continuous improvement framework and a service standard framework.
17. Every LEP is to provide a delivery plan framework based on LMI, and will set out whether we will be using procurement, grants or commissioning approach. A template for the plan is provided by SG
18. Delivery Plan will be developed at a LEP meeting/workshop on 1 December; it can be consulted over the next weeks, there is no deadline yet set by SG. TSDG will use the employability forum to input.
19. Shared apprenticeships model is going ahead with SDS leading, another meeting planned next week and an update at next LEP meeting. Wonder who is on this group...anyone from TS?
20. The LEP agreed that a delegate could come from the TS Employability Forum