

External Partners:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The DWP is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. It is the UK's biggest public service department and administers the UK's range of working age, disability and ill health benefits as well as the State Pension.

The Work Programme, was the welfare-to-work scheme from 2010-2015 supporting the long-term unemployed into work. This initiative was delivered within Scotland by Ingeus and Working Links. The Scotland Act 2016 and devolvement of responsibility for this programme are a step change in our relationship with DWP. Skills Development Scotland will deliver part of this programme for one year from April 2017 whilst plans for the programme from 2018 are agreed with the Scottish Government.

Job Centre Plus (JCP)

JCP is the main UK government agency providing services that support people of working age from welfare into work, and offer employers a route to fill vacancies via the Universal Job Match site.

- It has the remit to engage with employers nationally and locally and through this to increase the number of vacancies available to workless people.
- It is the referral agency for the current national government welfare-to-work initiatives
- It has responsibility for the payment of benefits to working age workless people and the phased introduction of Universal Credit.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

The role of this agency is within the scope of the review of the skills and enterprise agencies in Scotland. SDS provides a wide variety of services for employers, individuals and training providers. SDS contracts with training providers to deliver the national training programmes - Modern Apprenticeships and Employability Fund. It offers a variety of incentives to employers including training grants and recruitment incentives and individuals can access careers advice and support in redundancy situations.

In response to the devolution of the former Work Programmes, SDS will deliver on behalf of the Scottish government, a one year transitional programme (Work Able), which aims to secure up to 1,500 jobs for people with a health condition who want to enter work.

Skills Development Scotland delivers:

- Employability Fund – up to 12 weeks targeted and vocational training
- Scotland Employer Recruitment Incentive (SERI) - available to employers taking on young unemployed people age 16 to 29 years
- The Modern Apprenticeship programme

- Careers Information Advice and Guidance services
- The My World of Work website

Perth College UHI

Provides a wide range of Higher and Further education courses, centrally in Perth, by distance learning and in local learning centres across Perth and Kinross. As a major provider of learning services it makes a significant contribution to developing and raising the employability skills of individuals across the local authority area.

Third Sector interface

The Council and other partners procure employability services from the Third Sector and they themselves provide volunteering and employment opportunities. The Third Sector delivers:

- Employability services/programmes
- Social enterprises which can provide employment, training & volunteering opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities

Perthshire Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses

PCoC and FSB broadly represent the local business community. In relation to employability they promote recruitment incentives and modern apprenticeships among their membership. Perthshire Chamber has indicated they are keen to develop work experience programmes with local schools.

Employers

Large employers in the public and private sectors (including the Council) play a vital role in providing employment opportunities. Partnership working with employers such as Scottish and Southern Energy (Barnardo's Works) has been successful. There is opportunity to build on this success and also utilise community benefit clauses within procurement to maximise positive outcomes.

In Perth & Kinross, the role of small employers is vital and an early outcome for this strategy will be to improve collaboration with small businesses.