

THE OPPORTUNITIES FIFE PARTNERSHIP

ESIF 2014-2020: PATHWAY UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

The Opportunities Fife Partnership published an updated Commissioning Framework Paper in March 2015, outlining the new priorities for employability provision on Fife's Employability Pathway from 2015 onwards. The new Framework gave additional guidance on the possible budgets available and the target number of clients that were expected. Potential providers were issued with the document, which was also posted on the OFP website and issued to the wider Employability network through the employability e-bulletin.

RESPONSE

Notes of interest and requests for application templates were received by 20 March 2015 and provision was made for potential Partners to meet with the OFP Manager up to 27 March 2015.

Nineteen proposals were received by the 2 April 2015 deadline that were assessed and scored at a meeting on 9 April 2015.

SELECTION

The OFP Executive were delighted with the response to the Commissioning process and the standard of proposals received was incredibly high and the scoring was extremely competitive.

Nine individual Operations were selected by the OFP Executive for Commissioning on 15 April 2015, which were ratified by the full Partnership on 13 May 2015.

OPERATIONS:

Adult Long-term unemployed, multi-barrier clients:

Three Operations have been commissioned to work with approx. 1,965 clients with multiple barriers to employment:

- Fife Training and Employability Consortium (Consortium of 8 Third Sector Providers): identifying and engaging with clients in their local communities, providing access to a range of employability group activities and vocational training.
- Keyworker & Job Brokerage Service (Fife Council Employability & Employer Engagement Team): engaging with clients through contact with employability hubs and DWP. Providing clients with keyworker support, employability skills training and progression towards flexible, vocational training opportunities and sectorial Academies.
- Fife Recruitment & Outreach Project (DEAP): facilitation of a community based drop-in facility in Lochgelly. Offering localised 1-to-1 support, a range of employability activities and access to vocational training.

Health and Disabilities Provision:

Three Operations have been commissioned to support at least 350 clients with a range of Health and Disability Issues.

- Progress Fife (Capability Scotland): Expanding on provision already delivered in South West Fife, providing support and training opportunities for clients who's health or disability issues are a barrier for them accessing employment
- Working Well / Better off in Work (Fife Council: Supported Employment Service): Providing services across Fife for clients with a range of health or disability issues, with specific focus on engaging clients who are identified as having autism or Asperger's syndrome.
- Individual Placement Support (IPS) Service (Fife Employability Access Trust): Providing a "work-first" service specifically for those with mental health issues. Offering individual key-work support to access employment opportunities, while working simultaneously with prospective employers to educate them and develop individual support packages, which will ensure clients can sustain employment.

Ex-Offender Provision:

- Labyrinth: Finding the right path for you (APEX): will provide a direct mentoring service for clients who's offending background is a barrier to them accessing employment; interventions for other Operations on the Pathway who's clients have identified offending as a barrier; information, advice and guidance to Pathway Partners on how to identify that a client is an (ex-)offender, the disclosure process and conviction relevance.

Young People's Provision:

- Opportunities for All (Partnership of 4 providers through the Youth Delivery Group): Providing interventions from more than 350 young people who have been identified at risk at a key transition from school and the period beyond. Providing a community engagement service, keyworker support and access to provision that will raise expectations, aspirations and self-confidence. Progressing clients towards accredited training, further education and access to employment.

Working with Families Provision:

- Making it Work (Fife Gingerbread): Building on the current award winning delivery in Cowdenbeath/Kirkcaldy; Making it Work provides a range of support services to engage and support Lone Parents. Expanding provision to Glenrothes, Levenmouth and Rosyth areas, providing a holistic approach to employability through keyworker support and access to personal development short courses. Supporting parents with debt management, childcare and financial support to access employment and training opportunities

This new range of Operations will form the basis of Fife's Employability Pathway for 2015 onwards, supporting our clients to access, achieve and sustain employment.