

Area Jobs Plan – Proposal for 2016/17

Background

The City Council is seeing an increase in demand for services, coupled with the reduction in public spending. Employment and Skills model follows City Council policy, working in partnership with local Neighbourhood Lead Organisation (NLO) (or Area Lead Organisation / ALO) by devolving much of the responsibility and money to them.

By supporting NLOs and giving them more response and resources, this helps to engage, build stronger communities and to strengthen their capacity to take initiatives and / or responsibility for aspects of the City Council local employability agenda by addressing local needs.

Within your locality the NLO is the Meadows Partnership Trust who also delivers the Step into Work programme. They advocate on behalf of the City Council and work in partnership with a number of organisations to address unemployment in your area. MPT work with clients unemployed for 13 weeks or more, who face many barriers and by signposting and working alongside other organisations, MPT have forged a good relationship within the local community.

Community Employment and Skills

The Community Employment & Skills Team deploys three Community Employment & Skills (CES) officers across the three localities of the City in this area:

Stacey Shillingford – North
Danny Goodwin – Central
Karen Douglas - South

They have a responsibility for ensure that Area Jobs Plans are devised, coordinated and delivered by partners in order to:

- Fill gaps and avoid duplication in Employment & Skills provision
- Link in with complimentary services based within the community
- Ensure job seekers are supported to access the City Council's centrally run programmes, delivered by Nottingham Jobs www.nottinghamjobs.com

Neighbourhood Lead Organisations

The SitW initiative is aimed at helping unemployed young people aged 18– 29 years to find work. A key element of the initiative is the development by each SitW partner to develop, coordinate and oversee the Area Jobs Plan, which will outline what needs to be done at a neighbourhood level to best meet the needs of unemployed residents.

The Area Based Grant Employment and Skills priority is designed to reduce unemployment for all citizens aged 29 years or over. The NLO should work in close collaboration with Nottingham Jobs to deliver services that reduce unemployment and raise skills levels of local people.

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Funding/Resources for Area Jobs Plan

From April 2014, each 'lead community delivery partner' on the Step into Work (SitW) programme has received £42K funding per annum from NCC Economic Development to employ a Community Employment Officer to coordinate and deliver an Area Jobs Plan for 7 of Nottingham City's 8 Areas.

In addition, each Area Lead Organisation (ALO) will receive between £110K and £375K in 2016/17 (between £170K and £225K by 2018 as funding is rationalised between areas) in Area-based grants from the City Council, of which Employment & Skills forms one of four or five key priorities. This activity is reported to Area Committee

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Key Actions to discuss with Councillors

1. Resetting Area Jobs Plan priorities

It is proposed that the Area Jobs Plan will be more tightly bound to existing NCC services and infrastructure including:

- Area Committees, Ward Action Plans and Nottingham Jobs services.

A template for Area Jobs Plan priorities has been revised. *Councillors are invited to propose additional priorities they would like to see within their Area Jobs Plan.*

Proposed Priorities 2016/17 (Example)	
1	Reduction in youth unemployment
2	Reduction in long term unemployment
3	Reduction in digital & financial exclusion
4	Employers visiting Local Schools
5	
6	

2. Establishing Employment & Skills ‘Partnership Group’.

The CES team will seek to establish Employment & Skills Partnership Group for each Area bringing together partners from Futures, DWP, the ALOs, NCC, and the wider local community – including businesses, colleges, and other public services (EG Nottingham City Homes). These groups, ideally chaired by a local councillor, will be administered by the relevant CES officer, with the ALO taking principal responsibility for coordinating delivery and recommending actions for the group to take forward against the priorities set by Area Committee. It will meet every two months

3. Regularly reviewing with Area Committee

The CES Team will ensure that progress reporting against key priorities is outlined in detail on a quarterly basis, meeting with councillors and attending chair’s briefings prior to every Area Committee. The CES Team want to help empower Area Committees to be the driving force in ensuring ALOs deliver Area Jobs Plans to meet agreed priorities and are held to account for coordinating all Employment & Skills activity within the local community.

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Active Projects and Statistics which will be reported against by Area/Ward

1. Current levels and trends in benefit claimants by Area/Ward
2. Step into Work for 18 – 29 years – no of individual NEETs supported onto the programme and into work/apprenticeships/learning
3. Nottingham Jobs – no of Hub vacancies, apprenticeships & training opportunities filled
4. Nottingham Jobs – no of NJF vacancies filled
5. Work Experience – no of WE placements filled
6. Family Learning – no of individuals supported into training
7. Job Clubs – no of individuals supported
8. Aspire – No of employers & schools engaged