

Area-wide Cluster Meeting Questions

Tell us how easy it is for

1. Young people in areas such as Clifton and other outer estates to attend job centres / job shops how is this being addressed?

Nottingham has a very good transport network; this makes travel from outer estates into the city is very easy. Attendance at JCP on non signing days allows citizens to access travel costs for those journeys. In addition we are working with citizens to broaden their Travel to work area (TTWA) as Nottingham city does have a greater Labour market than outer estates, which are largely residential - the expectation is up to 90 mins travel time to receive benefit. In addition we are utilising more regular contact through digital means, E-mail, Text and Phone. Furthermore young people can access Employability support provision within their own neighbourhood via the Step into Work Project and/or local Work Clubs. Each area has a lead organisation providing these services in a number of venues readily accessible to young people such as the Bulwell Riverside, Clifton Cornerstone, Mary Potter Centre, Top Valley Community Centre, Aspley Community & Training Centre, the Meadows' Bridgeway Centre, City College on Carlton Road, and all the NCC run libraries across the City.

2. Not all young people have computers available to them so that they can access jobs portals. How are they being helped to get access?

All JCP offices now have Computers for Citizens to access, in addition they also have "WIFI" Zones in JCP offices, and there is access to I.T through Libraries and Community/Step into Work Partners, within the venues outlined above.

In Addition Nottingham Jobs Hub has an App for mobile phones – most young people have smart phones and can access the app through this route.

3. Accessing College can be difficult sometimes requiring 2 buses how accessible are bus passes etc. to young people who need/are eligible for these.

There are several partners working with Nottingham Jobs, DWP, Nottingham City Council and local colleges, including Sustrans, Ridewise and Travelright, which provide a number of services and travel subsidies to support young people with travel costs associated with accessing Further Education, Apprenticeships or Employment. In addition both DWP and the Step into Work programme have discretionary funding available which can support jobseekers with travel costs (and other barriers to learning and work such as clothing, equipment etc) if this is preventing them from accessing college or employment.

4. How are young people who do not pass DBS tests supported into work/training examples?

Failing a DBS check does not disbar a young person from receiving employability support from DWP, Futures, Nottingham Jobs or the Step into Work Community partners. A criminal conviction can impact on the likely hood of gaining work in certain sectors, but JCP, Community partners, and Nottingham Jobs staff will advise on the career pathways available and support young people, accordingly.

5. Are young people being double counted by organisations?

Rigorous checks and monitoring of programmes delivered by Nottingham Jobs, Futures, or Community organisations ensure that the same person isn't counted twice when evaluating beneficiaries of a particular programme or service. However, when young people are recipients of multiple programmes or services EG – if they attend a NCC jobs fair, receive support on the Step into Work programme, and are helped into employment by Nottingham Jobs they will be counted by each of these services. Nevertheless, as these interventions are considered in parallel as complementary and not an accumulative total of different individuals then this issue is avoided.

6. What is meant by a contact session do we have common understanding of this term?

We are not entirely sure as terms can vary between different organisations, however we believe it refers to an initial attempt to engage individuals or groups of young people within a community setting to encourage them to access employability services, work clubs, course, sector-based work academies, work experience, apprenticeships and other employment and skills related products.

7. How can we find out /scrutinise how successful courses are for students in helping them progress beyond entry level courses?

In terms of 'entry-level courses' we can provide information on the employability programmes ran or supported by Nottingham Jobs including Step into Work, Sector Based Work Academies, and Job Clubs across the city. We can include this information in Area Jobs Plans reported at Area Committee. These programmes include various entry-level provision including function maths and English, ESOL, interview skills, CV writing, Job searching, and information, advice and guidance. They can also include sector specific qualifications and licenses. Nottingham Jobs, Futures, and our Community Partners can provide information on numbers going into employment, apprenticeships, work experience, or full-time education, following receipt of this provision. In terms of entry-level FE courses, this information would need to be sought from local colleges.

8. What evidence do you have to show that you are working with young people who are hard to reach including those with learning disabilities including dyslexia, English as a second language, mental health issues etc How do these young people access your services ?

The whole of the Nottingham Jobs Hub service is designed to make access to vacancies easier – The target audience of the Hub is unemployed claimants, this is a broader term that includes long term unemployed, vulnerable, Sick & Disabled, however there is no specific targeting of these groups as we are primarily employer-facing. Other initiatives in Nottingham Jobs are also focused on the broader cohort of unemployed claimants. Step into Work targets 18-29 year olds and our community partners delivering the programming have to provide bespoke support for young people with a range of barriers to learning and work including the ones mentioned above. Specialist supported services are commissioned or co-opted by the lead providers to engage clients with these barriers. Individual records are kept which outline the issues young people are facing, but current monitoring reports only record if the client has a disability or not (self-declared), rather than a breakdown of specific health or other barriers to learning work (housing or crime related for example). This will be built

into future reports as part of new Service Level Agreements being put in place with each partner delivering the programme. Some partners undertake specific outreach programmes to target different groups of young people and encourage them to sign on the programme. The rest of beneficiaries are referred directly by DWP when they reach 13 weeks unemployed OR earlier if their DWP work coach identifies a specific barrier, including those outlined above.

9. Young people need support in living skills in order for them to retain college places and jobs how is this support being provided?

This information would need to be supplied by colleges but they have support services in place to help young people with their living skills. More generally this is available through Nottingham City Homes and other Social landlords, the Priority Families Programme, Step into Work, and other social services.

10. In working with challenging young people are local contacts being used to link into these groups where they meet e.g. barbers shops etc.

In terms of the Nottingham Jobs community partners, they have accessible welcoming facilities in key locations across the city outlined above. They also work with clubs and groups such as Switch Up (boxing club), Street League and the Unity project (both football) and other young-people focused organisations to encourage referrals into their services, as part of their Area Jobs Plans

Area 8 Cluster Questions

There are approximately 25 additional queries from Area 8 regarding:

- Monitoring
- Funding
- Publicity & referrals
- Partner organisations
- Service and Delivery
- Effectiveness of provision

These have been discussed verbally by the Neighbourhood Lead Organisation in a meeting with the Area Committee Chair.

These will also form the key starting point for the new Employment & Skills Area 8 Partnership, which will be established as the key recommendation of this report and answer all of these points via regular engagement with Area Clusters.