

REPORT TO WEST AREA COMMITTEE

16TH NOVEMBER 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Job Prospects

1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1**.

2. Workplan 2011/2012: Job Prospects

2.1 Committee will recall that its agreed aims to deliver this priority are:

- Increasing employability;
- Support to increase the job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach;
- Develop accredited training for volunteers, in order to improve skills and confidence.

2.2 At its last meeting in September, committee received a report, and agreed to establish a Task and Finish group to develop options and proposals to consider:

- The impact of doing nothing
- Support for families;
- Support for NEET young people;
- Support for all of the above and the long term unemployed.

2.3 The Task and Finish Group has met twice and in partnership with the VCS groups has developed options for Committee to consider to address the need of the three identified groups.

3. Context

3.1 In developing the options for Committee to consider the group and partners have considered many sources of information.

3.2 The unemployment rates as at August 2011 are set out below:

Barnes	5.8%	308
Pallion	13%	584
St Anne's	9.4%	475
St Chad's	6.8%	293
Sandhill	10.4%	493
Silksworth	7.7%	407
West	8.8%	2,560

Citywide figures indicate that people on key out of work benefits in the West of the city are three times higher than the official jobless count as described above.

3.3 By layering the ward figures with the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation, see **Annex 6**, it is possible to gain a clearer neighbourhood picture of the hotspots of worklessness in the West.

- 3.3 There are 44 Lower Super Output Areas in the West of which 6 are within the top 5% most deprived :
- 2 in Pennywell (St Anne's)
 - 1 in Pallion and 1 in Ford (Pallion)
 - 1 in Thorney Close (Sandhill)
 - 1 in Gilley Law (St Chad's)
- 3.4 There are 10 Lower Super Output Areas in the West that are within the top 10% of deprived areas including, Farrington, Plains Farm, Grindon, as well as further parts of Pennywell.
- 3.5 A further 5 Lower Super Output Areas are within the top 20% of deprived areas including, further parts of Farrington, Pallion and Nookside.
- 3.6 From 1st of October employability support is being delivered through the 'Work Programme', which is the government's key initiative targeted at people who have been unemployed for more than 12 months.
- 3.7 The current employability services (primarily Job Linkage) delivered by SNCBC on behalf of the Council will cease in March 2012.
- 3.8 SNCBC has been selected as a local delivery agent of the Work Programme for Sunderland. This represents 63% of one of the two contracts in Sunderland. This contract will enable SNCBC to work with 1220 people across the city over a twelve month period. This represents approximately 250 people from the West compared to almost 1000 residents from the West currently receiving a service.

4. Options

- 4.1 **Annex 7** details the option for Committee to consider, presenting the advantages, disadvantages, cost and outcomes for the following
- Do Nothing
 - Family Approach
 - Young People
 - Young People and Families
 - Universal

5. Recommendations

- i) Note the report.
- ii) Agree an option to progress within the West.
- iii) Approve the allocation of SIB to fund the agreed option, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal.

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