LEP Meeting Agenda

18 June 2025

via MS Teams

Apologies: Fiona Daniel, NESCol; Maggie Hepburn, ACVO

Note of last meeting

SUSE - David Cameron

Aberdeen Youth Movement – Brian Webb

VocTech ufi Regional Project – Chris Dunhill

Introductions to Iain Cocker

PACE Update – Nicola Graham

ETPF Update – Anne Kain

NOLB Year End (ctd) - Rebecca Craigmile

Support for Economically Inactive People - ask from ACC/bp Hydrogen Hub JV

Training Fair - update

Action Plan Timelines – seeking agreement for special LEP meeting - focused session

LEP SubGroups – agree groups, leads, and members – link to focussed session

AOCB

Future Agenda Items

2025/26 Conference
Other Funding Streams
LEP reporting line within CPA
SES - SUSE report – on agenda
Health Determinants Data
Delivery Plan Refresh
LEP report to Aberdeen Prospers
Developer Obligations
VocTech ufi regional project – on agenda
Consortium Building
Child Poverty Accelerator
Lived Experience
Aberdeen Youth Movement – on agenda
Paid Work Experience
ABZWorks Development Grants – evaluation report

DRAFT LEP Meeting Note

18 June 2025

via MS Teams

In Attendance: Anne Kain, ETPF; Chris Smillie, ACHSCP; Gerry Lawrie, NHSG; Iain Cocker, NESCol; Aimee Maitland, DWY-NE; Gareth Smith, DWP; Angela Taylor, ACC; Rebecca Craigmile, ACC; Chris Dunhill, ACC; David Cameron, SUSE

Apologies: Fiona Daniel, NESCol; Maggie Hepburn, ACVO, Stuart Bews, ACC; Kirstie McLaughlin, Business Gateway

SUSE - David Cameron, CEO of SUSE, presented to the LEP on the work he has been commissioned to carry out in the city. Slide deck attached, including David's contact details.

David commented that he was very impressed by people he had met locally in his work in the city so far, particularly by their values and commitment.

David also said one of the biggest challenges for him in preparing his report is the volume of "really good stuff in Aberdeen."

The first draft of the SUSE report is expected in early July, but it will take some time to agree the final report with ACC, ahead of sharing it with the LEP (anticipate August meeting).

Nicola advised that common feedback from SDS customers is that often the prospect of the unknown not only moving into employment or training, but simply entering the SDS or DWP office is a significant barrier to people taking the first step, and suggested a video of the entryways may be useful.

Aberdeen Youth Movement – Brian Webb – postponed to a future meeting

VocTech ufi Regional Project – Chris Dunhill, project officer, ACC Employability and Skills team presented on the regional VocTech ufi project, which is being led by ACC as lead accountable body, and delivered in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and NESCol. Slide deck attached, including Chris' contact details.

ACTION: Angela, via Chris, to discuss with SDS, DWP, and ACC comms with a view to getting some short videos made which can be posted on ABZWorks site and accessible for all.

Health Improvement Fund Chris S spoke briefly on the Health Improvement Fund, which provides up to £5000 for health improvement-related projects delivered in

Aberdeen across a broad range of eligible groups and activities. Full details and application form available here:Health Improvement Fund | Aberdeen City HSCP
The Fund is in high demand and the tightening budgets of third sector agencies is becoming increasingly clear to the Fund administrators – some very high-quality applications have been secured to date.

Chris would welcome more applications to the Fund and is available to discuss proposals with anyone who is interested.

ACTION: All – share information about the Fund through networks. Closing date for applications is 7 July.

Note of last meeting

ACTION – All LEP members to review and revert to Angela with any comments by noon on 25 June.

Introductions Iain Cocker has joined the LEP to represent NESCol as Fiona Daniel leaves the college this week. Iain will remain in place until a replacement for Fiona has been found.
Iain was asked to pass on the LEP's thanks to Fiona for her work and contribution to the LEP during her time in the partnership, noting that she had been a valuable member, and to pass on our best wishes for the future.

PACE Update

Nicola gave a brief overview of the current situation and will ask PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) co-chair Jane Gibson to attend the next LEP meeting to provider a fuller presentation.

The numbers of HR1s (redundancy notices which trigger the statutory reporting requirement when 20 or more people are at risk of redundancy) have picked up a little lately following a quiet period. The situation is currently 'steady.'

Nicola noted that lower volume redundancy situations, particularly amongst SMEs are often not reported or recorded because they don't hit the trigger point of 20 redundancies.

There is an ask of all LEP members who become aware of local redundancy situations to share that information with PACE co-chairs Jane Gibson (city) and Jen Noble (shire) to ensure that the PACE response and support can be provided to the business and affected employees.

PACE members include: SDS (lead agency), DWP, ACC, NESCol, Business Gateway, Aberdeenshire Council University of Aberdeen, RGU, Chamber of Commerce, CAB, but

most LEP members will have some involvement either directly or via employability activity.

There is a suite of information and webinars available on the SDS myworldofwork website

https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/career-help/redundancy-scotland/#:~:text=How%20we%20can%20help,to%205pm%2C%20Monday%20to%20Friday.

https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/employability-skills/partnership-action-for-continuing-employment-pace

ACTION: - all members on an ongoing basis to share information and local intelligence about redundancy situations to ensure the support can be offered and put in place for businesses and employees. Jane Gibson: jane.gibson@sds.co.uk; Jen Noble jennifer.noble@sds.co.uk

ACTION: - Nicola to ask PACE co-chair to present at the next LEP meeting.

ETPF Update

Anne reported that the Forum is pleased with the training schedule and standardised offer of access being made available across the board, which is something the ETPF would like to see grow in the future. The group is still looking for feedback on other training and will ensure that is happening as well.

The ETPF was pleased to hear from David Cameron, SUSE, and is excited to hear more about that piece of work.

Anne asked about the updated position on the post to be funded by the LEP, via ACC, for a development worker. Angela clarified that it is a LEP post, not an ETPF post, and that although the postholder will be able to provide some support to the forum, the LEP had agreed that the role was for the wider third sector.

The post will be funded to the financial year end and will be contracted on the same basis as the contracted provision with extension clauses built in subject to funding and performance, while noting that given timescales the impact and performance from year one will be limited.

The ETPF is looking at the commissioning process and has put something together which Pegs Bailey of the Improvement Service is being asked to look at. The ETPF has also asked Pegs to look for information from other areas.

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The forum is also looking at the consortium approach and has asked Pegs for examples of good practice in other areas and to invite them to an ETPF meeting. A sub-group is taking that forward.

Angela updated that the dates for the first in an anticipated series of consortium building events to be led by the Supplier Development Programme (SDP) are in the process of being confirmed – likely 29 or 31 July.

Case conferencing is still moving forward, no updates on that for now.

The Operational Forum is looking at what's happening elsewhere. Fife has a positive model, and the operational group is looking at their best practice meantime with a view to testing it out in Aberdeen and increasing the numbers of operational staff participating.

ACTION – Angela to confirm SDP consortium building session date.

Providers Networking Event Update – Very positively received by training provider and support agency attendees, who have asked for more events on a regular basis, and with more support agencies attending to widen the network.

About 50 people seeking employability support also attended, with many signing up with providers. Very brief report attached.

NOLB Year End (ctd) - Rebecca rounded off the presentation from the last LEP meeting (slides shared with May meeting note).

Action Plan Timelines and **LEP Sub-groups**– LEP agreed to a special meeting to determine timelines for actions in the revised Action Plan, and to discuss and agree LEP Sub-Groups, membership, and activities.

ACTION – ALL – Respond asap to Angela's email containing potential dates for an in-person meeting. Date will be confirmed once responses have been received.

AOCB

Brief discussion on the July meeting, which may need to move due to members' annual leave.

ACTION – ALL – Angela has circulated a potential date following discussion with the vice-chair. Please respond asap.

Future Agenda Items list is long, detailing things which have been asked for. Ask for the LEP to agree to prioritise to enable them to be planned into the diary – ie this to become an agenda item for the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

2025/26 Conference	Developer Obligations

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Providers Fair – Wednesday 29th May

Location: Beach Ballroom

Providers/ Stallholders :

ABZWorks
Bethany Trust
Shmu
CFINE
Business Gateway
Trelife
Vias
Nescol
Barnardos
City Libraries
Home Start
ADA
Working Rite
DWP
Pitman Training
Wee Too
DWP
SDS
Adoption & Fostering
SAMH
Foyer
Pitman Training

Amount of public attended – 50

We had a very good response but people want to see it bigger with some of the voluntary sector being included. Providers loved the chance to Network and have a chance to speak to someone in person.

Also a more central venue was mentioned by a few as with the ongoing works at the beach was causing issues with parking , however this would incur significant additional cost. The 13 bus stops directly outside the Beach Ballroom.

A coach had been booked to transport people to and from the city centre, but was cancelled by the operator at the last minute.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Ufi VocTech Project ‘Workwise’

VocTech: Vocational + Technology
UK wide network

Funded by

Ufi VocTech Trust

Ufi VocTech Project

Funded by

VocTech: Vocational + Technology

UK wide network

Place-based collaborations

createmappins

Aberdeen

Belfast

Hull

Newport



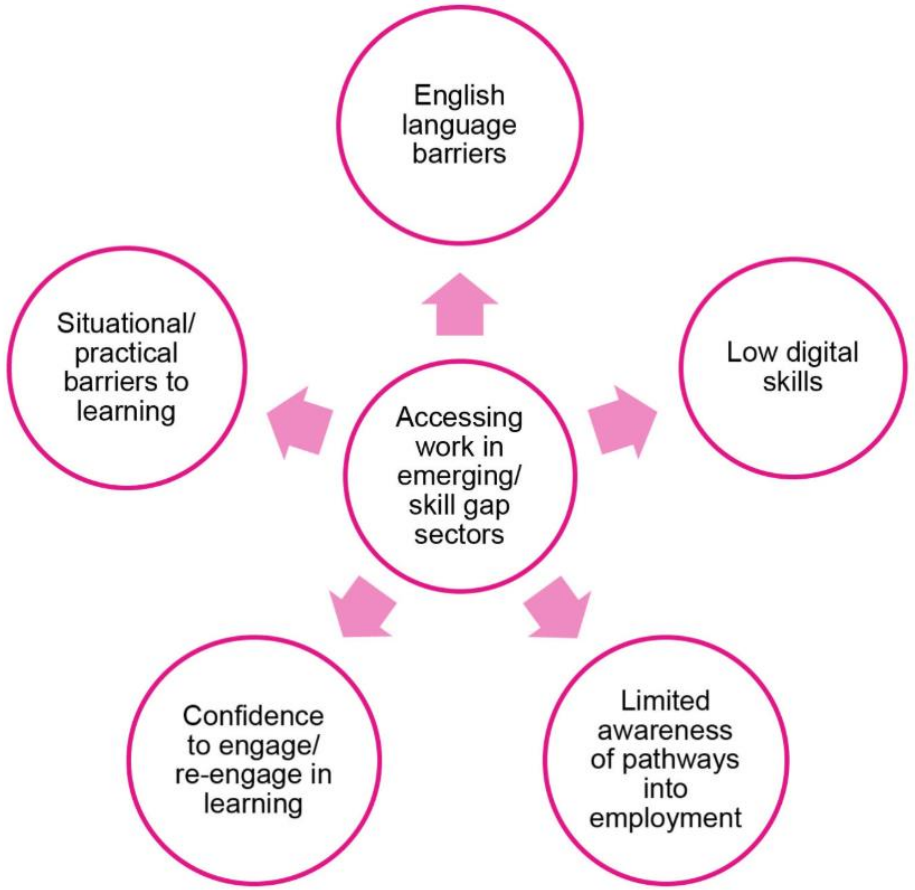
‘Workwise’ Project

Aberdeen City Council

Aberdeenshire Council

North East Scotland College

Barriers to Participation



Key Parts of Project



Creating online resources for individuals with:

- Zero or limited work experience
- Lack of confidence in taking up opportunities
- Lack of awareness of local jobs and what they involve



How will we meet needs?

Through developing Online Resources – **Additionality**

Platform with Virtual Work Experience inputs in key areas

Online Course building confidence to enter courses

Videos to raise awareness of local jobs across sectors



Partnership Working





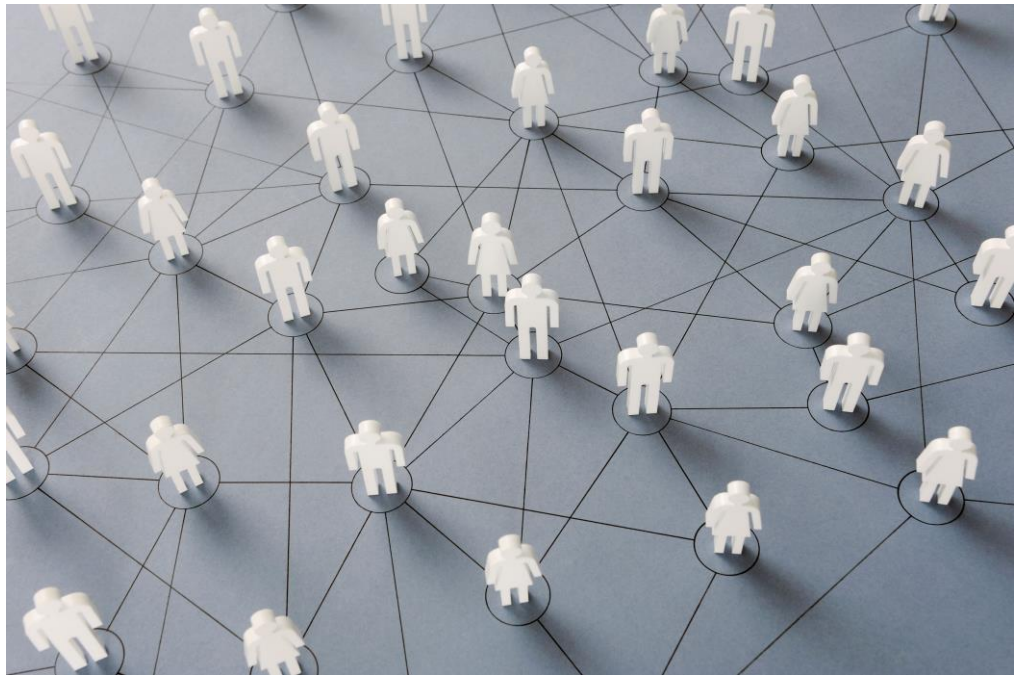
How do we want to achieve this vision?

Scottish approach to employability recognises that employability support must be about more than getting people into any job as quickly as possible.

It is built on values and principles that were developed and agreed in consultation with partners across the sector.



Next Steps



Thank You.

Chris Dunhill

Project Officer



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UFI VocTech Trust