

**ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**PROJECT PLAN FOR WORKING GROUP**

**TITLE:** WORKLESSNESS/EMPLOYABILITY

**REMIT:**

- The Strategic approach to support people off Incapacity Benefit (IB) and those on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) into employment;
- What we mean by the term “worklessness”? What is Employability?
- How we can make best use of resources and avoid duplication by working in partnership with key agencies in County Durham to achieve the best outcome for local people and employers regarding worklessness;
- What roles do the public and private sector play with this agenda? What support issues have they identified to assist them deliver on this agenda?
- Look to influence work in place regionally and locally that has mapped worklessness identifying gaps and opportunities;
- Utilise existing information (already being completed on behalf of ONE NE for Region) looking at a skills and training data base to support employers and prospective employees;
- Can we identify examples of good practice nationally, regionally and locally?
- Ultimately identify whether we have made a difference in the lives of people who are on Incapacity Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance.

WHEN	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHY
Dates/Time/ Location	Key Witness	Evidence/Information	Meeting/Visit/ Correspondence/Briefing Paper/Research	Focus on Remit
Tuesday 1 August	Graham Young Richard Smith Elaine Richardson Dave Park	Scene setting Definitions Challenge/Focus Examples of Good Practice re: Incapacity benefit	Meeting/Briefing	Definition of worklessness; Issues of employability; Focus on Incapacity Benefit and Job Seekers allowance.
Monday 11 September at 11am room 1a	Peter Kenrick Graham Young Richard Smith	Mapping Worklessness in County Durham Policy Context <b>CONCLUSIONS:</b> Need for a strategic approach; Working in partnership; Models of delivery need to be explored	Meeting/Briefing	What do we know about worklessness in County Durham? Where are the gaps? What are the opportunities? The Strategic approach to support people off Incapacity Benefit (IB) and those on Job Seekers Allowance(JSA) into employment
Friday 6 October at 10am room 1a	Elaine Richardson/ Christine Caine (JCP)	Stocktake of activity amongst Districts/Issues of data collection/mapping Customer Engagement <b>CONCLUSIONS:</b> JCP did a good presentation Agreed to visit some ETs. Need to capture info on evaluation/lessons learnt Communications/information strategy to assist frontline providers enable and empower communities Mention of deprived areas fund		So we can ensure any new initiatives to tackle worklessness / employability add value and do not duplicate any existing provision And therefore provide effective value for money

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Wed 18 October at 11am Council Chamber	Derwentside DC (TBC) Wearvalley DC (TBC)	Contribution from District Councils.		How we can make best use of resources and avoid duplication by working in partnership with key agencies in County Durham to achieve the best outcome for local people and employers regarding worklessness
	Stewart Watkins Graham Young Margaret Robson	Partnership approaches to employability issues- CDDC/CDEP/Single Programme funding		
Friday 3 November at 10am room 2	Robin Beveridge ONE NE	One NorthEast(TBC)-Regional Employability Framework Stage 1		The Strategic approach to support people off Incapacity Benefit (IB) and those on Job Seekers Allowance(JSA) into employment
	Kate Welch (TBC) Aiming High	Aiming High in Easington		
	Phil Young (TBC) ESH partnership	ESH Partnership		
Wed 15 November at 11am Council Chamber	Workable Solutions Nerise Oldfield/ Fiona Fail	Employers perspectives/support issues		What roles do the public and private sector play with this agenda?
	Gary Bainbridge - Service User Co- ordinator, Day Services Improvement Team, Adult and Community Services, Durham County Council.	Individuals Perspective		What support issues have they identified to assist them deliver on this agenda?

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Wed 15 November at 11am Council Chamber (cont)	Rod Varley NE Construction Employment Integrator (CEI)	Employers perspective		
	Graham Young/Richard Smith	Single Programme Fund Commissioning Priorities		
	Burney Johnson/Adrian White (TBC)	Transport Implications/ Accessibility		
Tues 28 November at 10am	Job Centreplus (TBC)			Ultimately identify whether we have made a difference in the lives of people who are on Incapacity Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance
	Elaine Richardson/Tracey Webb	Pathways to Work- making a difference on IB Condition Management Worklessness and Health		
	Dave Park Anna Lynch			
Mon 11 Dec 11am at 1a	Phil Pearce John Lumley Adam Chicken	Employers Perspective  DVD Back 2 Work		Ultimately identify whether we have made a difference in the lives of people who are on Incapacity Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance

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Fri 5 Jan at 10am room 1a	Kate Welch "ACUMEN" (TBC)	Examples of Outcomes/good practice		Can we identify examples of good practice nationally, regionally and locally?
	Margaret Robson Gateway to Gateshead & Job Auctions	Examples of good practice/opportunities for collaborative working		
	Rod Varley Elaine Richardson	Strategic approaches to deliver Employability		
16 Jan at 10am room 1b	Christine Caine Julia Hume Nick James (LSC)	Providers of Training		Can we identify examples of good practice nationally, regionally and locally?
	Graham Young	Partnership mapping(strategic planning/commissioning/deliv ery)		
	Howard Forest Terese Little? NE EC (TBC)	Role of Agencies		
Jan/Feb 6/2	Sue Dawson TBC	Wearvalley Visit  Role of Agencies Recap/further evidence/conclusions/ recommendations		