

FINANCE COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

SUBMISSION FROM EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

1. In East Renfrewshire we have two employability partnerships (Opportunities for all focussing on transitions and those aged 16-19 and Work-er which covers 19+). Both partnerships are led by the Council and supported by our strategic partners including Job Centre Plus and Careers/Skills Development Scotland.

2. Specific activity being led by both partnerships relating to your information request includes;

Family Firm Initiative

3. As an extension of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities we are in the process of implementing a Family Firm Initiative which will provide a framework of employment and work experience opportunities for young people who have been or are currently Looked After or Accommodated (LAAC) by the Council. The Council will use its internal resources to create opportunities for young people to gain valuable work experience and to have a taste of different employment options. Time spent on work experience will count towards qualifications required for apprenticeship and other entry level jobs. An external co-ordinator has been appointed to broker opportunities and to seek wider opportunities with CPP partners and the private sector. Target is 12 young people in 2012/13; investment in 2012/13 - £55,000.

National Training Programmes

(i) Modern Apprenticeships

4. Funded through our contract with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the Council is offering 24 new apprenticeships in 2012/13 at an estimated cost of £110,000. We are working closely with SDS/Careers, Education and Social Work to ensure places are offered to "at risk clients".

(ii) Get Ready for Work

5. In partnership with Reid Kerr College and funded through our contract with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the Council is offering 24 new Get Ready for Work placements in 2012/13 at an estimated cost of £120,000. Again we are working closely with SDS/Careers, Education and Social Work to ensure places are offered to "at risk clients". Based at our construction skills academy in Barrhead this programme has so far assisted more than 20 young people into positive outcomes, the majority of whom were classed as MCMC clients.

(iii) Training for Work

6. Funded through our contract with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the Council is offering 20 new Training for Work placements in 2012/13 at an estimated

cost of £40,000. Again we are working towards targeting long term unemployed and those furthest from employment.

ESF Renfrewshire Employability Partnership Programme

7. We are working in partnership with Renfrewshire Council to deliver the Priority 5 ESF employability programme which again targets vulnerable groups and has an emphasis on 18-24 year olds. We expect to support up to 300 clients over the lifetime of the programme at a cost of £200,000

Local Employer Grant (LEG)

8. In recognition of the ongoing economic difficulties, in 2012 the Council approved a £500,000 economic stimulus package to deliver a range of actions to support employment. Whilst some activity such as Youth Enterprise Start Up and Graduate Internships reflect our somewhat unique local circumstances, other one off support programmes such as the Local Employer Grant Scheme have assisted vulnerable young people back into work. This has cost around £100,000 for 35 outcomes. In addition we have spent about £50,000 on a programme to use young unemployed residents to undertake some environmental training and then deliver live projects to clean up our town centres and build infrastructure into our Country Parks. This will deliver 20 outcomes over 2012/13.

Volunteering and Social Enterprise

9. The Council has also supported the 3rd sector to create volunteering, training and employment opportunities for vulnerable and excluded groups. This has cost around £30,000 with further funding coming from JCP and delivered an estimated 30 outcomes.

10. In summary, the Council and its partners recognise that youth unemployment is an ongoing issue. However, with further pressure on future budgets it is unlikely that the scale of these interventions can be maintained without new funding being identified.