

SCTP Pre-employment Group Meeting Notes & Actions

28 February 2018 at Jobcentre Plus, Lewes

Attendees:

Members: Kat Last (Barnardos), Thomas Stoner (City & Guilds), Sian Crossland (Crossland & Dudson Training), Steph Dudson (Crossland & Dudson Training), Julie Lawn (Cute Dog Consulting), Dan Wallman (DV8 Sussex), Caroline McKiddie (East Sussex County Council), Lisa Cull (Heathercroft Training), Elaine Jones (JACE Training), Iqraa Rehman (JACE Training), Heather Armstrong (London Learning Consortium), Susan Hart (PACA Adult Learning), Louise Hayes (Plumpton College), Mandy Crandale (Possability People), Angela Graham (Possability People), Mel Fuller (Skills Training UK), Sarah Caulfield (Sussex Community Development Association), Jude Day (Sussex Community Development Association), Vanessa Potter (Sussex Cricket Foundation), Nina Thair (West Sussex Alternative Provision College), Jane Chew (West Sussex County Council), Jamie Guest (YMCA Downslink Group), Paul Mitchell (SCTP), Sarah Sawyer (SCTP).

Guests: Wayne Edmunds (DWP), Anna Morse (SABDEN Multi Academy Trust).

Apologies: Jess Wylde (Barnardos), Shiromi Cabraal (Brighton & Hove City Council), Ana-Maria Maddock (Crawley Borough Council - Employ Crawley), Kate Lawrance (Rewards Training), Nick Howard (WEA).

T Levels

City & Guilds provided an update on the current situation with T Levels

- T Levels will be a level three technical study programme across 15 subject areas.
- T Levels are designed by employers and will contain work placements (about 40 days)
- They will be a two-year programme, and will be equivalent to three A Levels
- There will be three sectors piloted across the next 18 months, which are childcare, digital and construction.
- The 15 sectors are out to tender for awarding bodies to bid to deliver them.
- Pilot delivery is due to start in 2019, with full delivery for 2020.
- It is an evolving situation currently. It is not clear yet how T Levels will sit alongside other qualifications, or if Universities will accept them for entry onto degree courses.

Action: Thomas Stoner agreed to find out on whether T Levels are going to carry UCAS points.

Local Authority Updates

East Sussex County Council

- Participation amongst young people aged 16-17 has decreased compared with last year and the number of young people in apprenticeships is also declined (5.3% 16-17 year olds last year, 4.7% of 16-17 year olds this year).
- There has been a 25% drop in apprenticeship starts in East Sussex across all ages.
- There has been an increase in the NEET group at age 16 and the council is doing some research into the reasons behind this.
- The Youth Employability Service (YES) is being delivered by MY Trust. They are supporting young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

West Sussex County Council

- Figures for participation, starts etc weren't yet available to share.
- All WSCC's supportive services for families and youth have been brought under the Integrated Prevention & Earliest Help (IPEH) service. This will provide a holistic approach to supporting young people and families.
- The IPEH service has a hub in each West Sussex borough/district and each hub has a careers advisor who works with NEET young people and those who drop out of education and training.

DWP Update

Universal Credit (UC)

- The vast majority of claimants are still receiving legacy benefits (JSA & ESA) and will continue to do so for the next two years, unless there is a big change in their personal circumstances.
- The full UC digital service is live for new claimants. They will need to manage an online account, making their claim online and maintaining an online journal.
- The DWP are contracting with Local Authorities to run digital skills courses to support those who will need help with the new UC digital service.
- 55% of the cohort on ESA have mental health issues as their primary diagnosis. Job coaches are receiving training from Possability People to better support these people.

Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)

- This is a new way of working for procuring training. Jobcentre Plus (JCP) managers will look at the needs of their clients and put what they are looking for on the DPS for providers to provide offers.

Work & Health Programme

SCDA are running the Work & Health Programme in East Sussex, which replaces the former Work Programme. It is being delivered by Maximus in West Sussex.

- It is a five-year programme and will work with individuals over 18 who are likely, with support, to be able to get into employment within a 3-12 month period.
- Work coaches will work with individuals to identify what support is needed and work with existing agencies to offer that support.
- In-work support will also be offered to help maintain employment.
- Will be working with community partners to identify and work with people who aren't currently engaged with JCP, as referrals can only come through JCP.

Sabden Multi-Academy Trust

The Trust is made up of Social Emotional and Mental Health schools and a Pupil referral unit. The Trust are looking:

- To establish and maintain partnerships with training providers interested in collaborating on their new Alternative Provision Free School, due to open by September 2019.
- For any providers who are interested in offering non-commissioned courses to school aged students.
- For training providers who would be interested in joining a KS4 External Training Provider Forum in East Sussex.

The Sabden document accompanying these notes gives details about each of the above and you can contact Anna Morse direct on anna.morse@sabden.org.uk.

Member Discussions

Members informed the group about some new initiatives:

- SCDA highlighted a Big Lottery funded programme, where a social enterprise has been set up upcycling bicycles in Newhaven. They are looking for volunteers and also bikes which they can use. It can be used as a place for work placements/experience. Email jude.day@sussexcommunity.org.uk for more information.
- West Sussex County Council (WSSC) is holding an apprenticeship fair on 10 March at the Drill Hall in Horsham from 11.00 – 15.00.
- The WSSC graduation apprenticeship graduation ceremony takes places on 6 March.
- The South East apprenticeship graduation ceremony takes place at the Amex Stadium in Brighton on 9 March.
- DV8 Sussex highlighted two 10 week engagement programmes they are running for 16-18 year olds in Bexhill and Brighton. Contact dan.wallman@dv8sussex.com for information.
- Possability People have a course called Journey to Employment, open to all ages who are receiving any benefit, to help with digital skills to support those furthest from the job market. Contact angela@possabilitypeople.org.uk for further details.

SCTP Updates.

The 'SCTP Members' Linked In group is available for members to communicate with each other. You can use this forum to promote your provision to other members. [Connect to the group here.](#)

SCTP CPD events coming up which will be of interest to our pre-employment group members:

- Health & Safety Training Session, aimed at all types of providers, on Thursday 15 March, 09:30 – 13:00 at Horsham Training Centre. [Flyer for further details and booking.](#)
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Free session for members after the Members' Meeting, on Thursday 22 March, 13.30 – 15.30. [Details to book a place.](#)

The next Pre-employment group meeting will be on **Wednesday 20 June**, 10.00 – 13:00.

If anyone can offer a venue for pre-employment meetings, please contact Sarah at sarahsawyer@sctp.org.uk. The venue would need to be in the centre of Sussex to suit those travelling from further out in East and West Sussex, be transport accessible and be able to accommodate about 25 people.