

Collected Recession Responses from Job Strategy Providers

March 2009

Partners have been asked to collect data and information on the impact of the recession on their day-to-day business and to forward any details of action they are taking to mitigate this.

JCP

- We are currently recruiting additional staff to increase adviser capacity.
- We are looking at our office layouts with a view to maximising the use of space.
- We are helping to support redundancies by use of the JCP Rapid response fund and reviewing the way that we provide input to PACE
- We are adjusting opening hours at some sites to meet additional customer demand.

SDS

A total of 3835 notified redundancies have been received for the period January to end February 2009. Of this total 3,479 (91%) have been notified from the financial services sector.

Currently figures indicate that 725 Modern Apprentices across Scotland have been notified of redundancy. Across the City of Edinburgh 36 have been made redundant (for comparison the Edinburgh and Lothian figure is 97) Of the 36 in the City, 8 have found alternative employment and continue their training, 24 are working with their Training Provider to secure alternative employment and 4 have left training. 31 of the 36 Edinburgh MAs are in construction and related trades.

Footfall in Shandwick Place remains high with daily figures averaging at 90 clients per day. In addition the number of unemployed adults accessing Careers Scotland support has increased by 8% on the previous year.

SDS are currently re-examining the strategic and operational planning of PACE both internally and externally with partners, specifically JCP.

SDS has arranged to meet with Colleges to discuss developing a strategy on closer collaborative working to support PACE activity including MA redundancy response.

The Integrated Employment and Skills programme trial commenced at the start of February. The IES programme involves SDS Advisers working with JCP advisers to offer a more joined up service to support customers move into training and employment.

SDS is currently reviewing all materials available to support customers in a redundancy situation. These materials are now available for clients on a specific section of the website www.careers-scotland.org.uk/redundancy

CEC – Economic Development

The Council has seen increased requests for economic data/intelligence and also a Council 'strategic response' to recession reflected in Economic Resilience Plan and proposed Economy Watch updates as described below.

In response CEC has:

- Increased collection and accessibility of City focussed economic statistics
- Development of new more accessible web pages
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/economicdata
- Edinburgh Labour Market Bulletin -quarterly publication now with new monthly updates since Feb 09, and production of a Regional Bulletin under discussion
- City Centre Health Watch quarterly bulletin (retail footfall, parking demand) Centre Pulse (annual city centre performance report)

A regular Economy Watch Bulletin is currently in development which will provide updates on a range of local indicators being collected monthly since the recession began (e.g. property prices, vacancy numbers, footfall, office and hotel occupancy, unemployment, airport passengers, etc)

Upgrading of Inspiring Capital website underway 2009 - in particular the 'Invest' pages <http://www.edinburgh-inspiringcapital.com/invest.aspx> -which links into key employment sector activities and developing Council led destination marketing(DEMA Destination Edinburgh Marketing Alliance) and inward investment activities.

Capital City Partnership

Capital City Partnership continues to monitor the local labour market via a range of indicators including programme performance. As a direct result of the recession a proposal will go to the CCP board regarding creating a special budget heading to support the Council's Economic Resilience Strategy. This fund will support initiatives which ensure that target groups are not adversely affected by the economic downturn and its impact on the labour market. In addition, CCP is in negotiation with area intermediaries to consider how their services can be adapted to work with the newly unemployed whilst continuing to provide a service to priority groups - this may result in additional funding either through the FSF or ESF budgets to allow area intermediaries to work with these groups. It is expected that the fewer available vacancies in the City are likely to impact on contracted job outcomes and CCP has agreed to monitor and offer flexibility around fulfilment of contracts. Providers have been asked to provide early evidence of any significant changes in the kinds of service they are being asked to provide.

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is offering a programme of events specifically designed to help businesses beat the recession. The programme is called One Step Ahead and details can be found at www.edinburghchamber.co.uk/onestepahead

Further Education Colleges

The colleges report that they are about to start running programmes to help people start their own businesses and develop self-employment as a strategy. They are also involved in seeking to assist apprentices who are made redundant to continue with training related to their chosen career. Also colleagues are meeting with PACE tomorrow (Thursday) and so there will be a verbal report on the outcomes of this at the JSG.

National discussions are underway as to how the colleges can, hopefully on a regional basis be much more pro-active in accrediting prior experiential learning.