

SUMMARY

The 'Get On' Mobile Unit is a very successful project taking information and advice out to people in disadvantaged communities in Edinburgh. It is a practical example of promoting and linking social and economic sustainability issues to benefit the wider community. The project demonstrates the value of inter-agency activity and the importance of tailoring support to effectively help individuals attain and sustain economic activity.

BACKGROUND

'Joined up for Jobs' is the 2009-2012 jobs strategy for Edinburgh. Key agencies work in partnership across the city to help more people into employment. The Employability & Skills team (based in the Economic Development Unit of the Council) lead on supporting 3,000 disadvantaged people into sustainable employment, education or training.

One of the practical projects developed to assist priority groups from disadvantaged areas to access advice and information from relevant agencies is the 'Get On' project. The project was formally launched on 1 June 2009.

Using a mobile unit, staff from 'Joined up for Jobs' agencies have been going into neighbourhoods with significant disadvantage, to provide one-to-one information on the opportunities for employment and training, alongside advice and support on health, housing and money issues.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Advice Shop is looking at ways to assist the project, and the Cyrenians and the EHAP housing advice and information service are coming on board. NHS Lothian will also be promoting the 'Get On' phone line as an access route to 'Joined up for Jobs' services.

Staff feedback has been entirely positive with a lot of learning, new contacts and collaboration emerging from working on the mobile unit with other agencies. However, more staff from all sectors in the 'Joined up for Jobs' network are needed to support 'Get On' outreach work for the rest of the year – 'Get On' will be visiting more of the areas in Edinburgh that are less well served by local services.

'Get On' is there to promote 'Joined up for Jobs' network organisations and services to both the potential recipients and other services as well as to relevant organisations outwith the network.

TO DATE...

- 'Get On' has visited 36 venues across the city and attended 14 community-led events;
- Over 80 staff from around 21 'Joined up for Jobs' organisations and 15 other organisations (including 5 Neighbourhood Partnerships) have staffed the unit on a rota basis;
- 81 organisations - ranging from local employment intermediaries to housing associations, advice services and health projects - have promotional material on display in the mobile unit;
- The timetable for the 'Get On' unit has received over 500 hits since early June (look under 'Events' on the Joined up for Jobs online Noticeboard www.joinedupforjobs.org.uk/forum);
- 1,500 people have used the mobile unit in person;
- 20 enquiries were made via the phone line (0800 917 4244);
- Enquiries span employment, training, volunteering, benefits issues and health;
- 200 jobseekers have been registered on the Caselink Database; and
- The Volunteer Centre has over 20 new volunteers as a result of their collaboration with 'Get On'.



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