

Employability Information/Awareness Raising Session

1.0 Points of Clarification (from inputs)

- Potential benefits to client(s) – not universally accepted
- Referrals/Criteria – How long out of work to be eligible
- Central collation/coordination of activity – who is in the 'central' body
- Financial support for clients?
- Resources need to be available over longer term
- Information/communication important
- Providers measurement
 - Hard
 - Soft

2.0 Potential Benefits to 'clients' (of Voluntary Engagement)

- Social, economic, community
- Tailored support
- Feeling valued by organisation
- Breaking out of cycle/dignity
- Self empowerment
- Legacy – (for next generation)
- Improve social life
- Financially included
- Issues
 - Avoidance sanctions
 - Does client group know about Employability agenda i.e. as well as informing/raising awareness amongst public/third sector do 'actual' clients know what may be round corner (who's role to inform them)

3.0 Barriers for Clients

- Regulations – fear
- Lack of coordinated support – confusion
- Attitudes of providers/partners
- Lack of trust
- Time taken to move people through a 'programme'
- Inadequate resourcing/inability to respond to client i.e. provider (system) needs V client needs
- Information – sufficient/readable etc

4.0 What can Voluntary/Third Sector take to agenda

- Some already doing what is envisaged – exemplars?
- Relationship with client group/trust
- Adaptability/flexible
- Innovation/creativity
- Experts at tackling barriers with clients
- Person/client centre approach
- Placement/practical interventions
- Choice/variety
- Experience of working in 'measurement' environment
- Value for money *** need to be wary Not Cheap Option – different/alternative/better option
- Less intimidating
- Good at identifying/responding to gaps

5.0 Asked about 'How you feel about this'

- Concerns for client
- Concerns about being compromised/conflict of interest i.e. clients needs will not always (understated!!!) be the focus of 'employability' agenda.
- Anxiety
- Optimism/can do
- Conditional enthusiasm