|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name and purpose of meeting:**  Scottish Borders Local Employability Group | |
| **Date of meeting:**  15/08/2024 | **Attended by:**  J Amaral |
| **Relevant agenda items:**   * Mapping and Gapping update * LEP funding * SUB groups update – * Transitions * Barriers * Skills * Employer Engagement * Leadership | |
| **Specific points of interest:**  Mapping and gapping – Juliana updated members on progress made to date on the mapping and gapping exercise. Ryan Martin, Third Sector employability lead has taken this piece of work forward and has already started the mapping, initial exercise identified 178 third sector organisations delivering direct or indirect employability opportunities in the Scottish Borders. Juliana highlighted that not all of them will be part of the next phase but they will be given an opportunity to engage in the process, particularly those with an explicit employability offer. The LEP will provide governance and overview of this project.  Survey is currently being designed and Ryan has also meet Fife Employability partners to gather information and feedback. Juliana asked for LEP volunteers to review the survey draft.  **Action: Ryan to circulate the draft with the names on the list.**  **Financial Position –** The LEP total budget is of approximately £200K to be allocated by the end of the financial year.  Juliana raised the issue of delays in processing EOI and the lack of clear guidance for multiple funds held by SBC which creates issues in the quality of applications coming through the pipeline and more work for the team to obtain the correct narrative. Katherine Mattison also emphasised that applications can take months to be processed and the EOI process adopted by SBC needs to be reviewed. There was a wider conversation around the fair funding agenda.  **Action: Juliana was asked to provide a list of organisations with pending applications or process delays so they can be sped up**  SUB groups updates –  Transitions - Andrea Hall updates on progress made in the transitions subgroup, particularly around entrepreneurship joint work between SOSE, DYW, SDS  Barriers – Workshops underway targeting parents and looking to re-engage in the job market, exploring work experience placements.  Construction industry workshops had 20+ people attending, the main issues raised were lack of certification and driving licenses  Skills – Katherine Matthison provided an update on the skills subgroup and felt the group has not been progressing at pace in terms of actions. Mapping and Gapping exercise will be key in supporting the group to identify key priorities.  Childminding course, customer service and Health and social care myth busting event is being planned. The subgroup is also looking at digital skills for older adults. Juliana emphasised the clear link with CPP priority under theme 4.  Employer Engagement – Kevin Greenfield updated regarding connections between organisations being made but no direct contact with local employers. The construction forum is going well and the subgroup is now looking at the agriculture industry and potential pathways for apprenticeship.  Leadership – Lana Turner provided and update on LEP comms plan, looking at joining action with CLD as part of their plans to develop a stronger online presence.  Training - NHS Borders happy is providing mental health training to clients linked to employability services.  Scottish Approach to service design course being explored for October to all LEP members.  Dumfries and Galloway LEP is now moving towards commissioning rather than grant allocation. Juliana highlighted that the mapping and gapping exercise will be fundamental in indicating how and what should be commissioned in terms of priorities for the Borders.  AOB  Alasdair Scott (SBC LEP) provided an update on Scottish Recruitment Fair – a national approach from Scottish Government happening in October.  Looking for a central venue in the Borders for an event.  Scottish approach to service re-design training, potential date 10/10  Andrea Hall highlighted Burnfoot Community Hub needs support and could be in a position to apply for LEP funds to deliver employability training around catering. | |
| **Comments:**  Mapping and Gapping Exercise is fundamental in shaping how employability services and projects should be funded/ commissioned.  Work around entrepreneurship should include the third sector – Juliana to discuss it with Andrea and Tara Bolland. Funding currently available from SG | |
| **Actions from this meeting:**  Ryan to circulate the draft with the names on the list.  Action: Juliana was asked to provide a list of organisations with pending applications or process delays so they can be sped up | |
| **Distribution list for information:**  BCA Team and members  **Signed: J Amaral** | |