

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

PURPOSE OF PAPER

1. Update to the Committee on the most recent meeting of the YEITC.

DECISIONS REQUIRED

2. The Committee is invited to:
 - Note the discussions of the YEITC and the implementation of the programme.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

3. The Youth Employment Initiative (YEITC) met on the 21st February 2018. The Committee at its previous meeting had requested that the Scottish Funding Council deliver a short presentation highlighting the activity that Colleges are delivering in the West of Scotland along with progress towards meeting the operational programme targets and results as well as any issues affecting delivery. SFC carries the largest grant award (£27.9m) under YEI as well as the bulk of the output and results

4. SFC focused much of the presentation around the audit issues that they are experiencing. The key points from this are:

- Unemployment/inactivity at the point of entry difficult to prove
- Milestones for student support are restrictive as SFC historically exceeds student support (although SFC acknowledge a change request can change this)
- Students often tick the wrong box for employment status
- Students with part time/zero hour contracts at point of entry are ineligible
- Excel BACS report are not accepted

5. The Committee also requested that the Managing Authority present performance information against programme targets from the claims that have been submitted to the MA. It was agreed that this is a good time to deliver such a presentation as it is after the N+3 deadline and will provide a good snapshot of the programme so far. Key headline points from the presentation were:

- £59.10m of grant was committed at the end of 2015. Current notified underspends now take this figure to £54.49m
- There were 15 claim in the system at the time of the presentation of which 10 claims had been paid totalling £3.28m.
- In relation to outputs and results performance is better against ESF Programme target than overall approved target. This is encouraging for the MA for reporting to the European Commission
- The claims information suggests that a large number of long term unemployed and inactive participants are being supported.

6. The latter point is encouraging as the youth unemployment situation has changed dramatically since 2012 when the South West Scotland qualified for YEI.

7. The Managing Authority (MA) continues to work closely with lead partners to address compliance and verification issues to ensure that claims can be submitted to maximise spend under YEI.

Decisions Required

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- Note the discussions of the YEITC and the implementation of the programme.

JPMC SECRETARIAT

19 APRIL 2018