

Services provided by Dundee City Council

Dundee City Council provides a wide range of services which support people moving towards and into employment. Supporting people into work may be only one of the reasons that a service exists. The Employability Programme recognises that supporting people in a range of ways, for example, with basic skills or with building up confidence, is a necessary first step for some people in their journey into work.

The Economic Development Department plays a key strategic role in the delivery of employability services in the City. In establishing the Employability Programme, the Department took the lead role in the creation of the Dundee Partnership's Employability Group and developed the City's Employability Plan in conjunction with the Dundee Partnership. Officers from the Department play lead officer roles for a number of projects supported by the Fairer Scotland Fund. The Department also employs the Fairer Scotland Fund Employability Team on behalf of the Dundee Partnership and provided the Discover Opportunities Centre premises.

The Department was responsible for the development of a Community Planning Partnership bid to develop and deliver a European funded Employability Programme in the City, which is bringing in the region of £5.5M of additional funding through the European Social Fund to support employability projects. The Department will continue to employ a European Programme Manager and a Monitoring & Compliance Officer to ensure effective delivery of the programme.

The Department also provides expertise across a range of employability activities, to the Fairer Scotland Fund Employability Team, including advice on support for parents entering the employability programme, childcare issues, the Client Support funds administered by the Fairer Scotland Fund and the Dundee Employability Management Information System (DEMIS).

The Department also employs and hosts E-Zone, a project aimed at supporting people from some of the city's disadvantaged areas to access self-employment. The project seeks to support people from idea, through business planning, financial advice to business start-up. A small grants scheme is administered by the E-Zone team to support business start up opportunities for individuals.

The Corporate Planning Department coordinates the Dundee Partnership and plays a leading role in the community planning process. It is within this context that the Partnership has allocated £3,500,000 to employability projects and related activity in 2008/09, this confirms the priority that the Dundee Partnership puts on employability.

The Education Department prepares most pupils for life and for the world of work successfully. However, no schooling system can produce successful outcomes for all young people, this is one of the key reasons why the Education Department is a key supporter of activities designed to give young people who need them More Choices and More Chances.

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The Leisure and Communities Department supports people to develop skills and confidence through a range of activity including Adult Learning, Regeneration, Adult Guidance, Youth Work and Community Capacity Building. Assisting people into work may not be the main focus of these programmes, however, by assisting people to address their learning needs and by addressing literacy issues, participants are better prepared for employability. Part of the ambition of the Partnership is to link up the activities undertaken in communities with opportunities to gain employment - creating clearer pathways and more effective support.

The Social Work Department has developed specific initiatives to support people into work including a Social Care Academy in partnership with Dundee College. The Academy aims to support people to gain the qualifications that they need to get a job with the Social Work Department and to continue to progress in work. The Social Work Department also chairs a working group looking at how to support people with learning disabilities into work.