

Minister for Employability and Training

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THE FUTURE OF SCOTLAND'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Today we launched 'No-one Left Behind – Next Steps for the Integration and Alignment of Employability Support in Scotland', which sets out our approach to deliver more effective and joined-up employability support across Scotland. Our aim is to improve the quality of service delivery and ultimately help more people into sustainable and fair work.

A copy of *No One Left Behind – Next Steps for the Integration and Alignment of Employability Support in Scotland* is available online at:

<http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/devolved-employment-services/integration-and-alignment/>

The plan contains a series of actions that we will implement collaboratively with our partners. The plan has a focus on integrating employability provision with health, justice, and housing support and services to help those people who are further from the labour market.

In addition, the plan includes a commitment to engage with people and organisations in a discussion on the future of the employability system in Scotland, to explore how we deliver a more flexible, person-centred and joined-up system.

The review will focus on the resources the Scottish Government invests in the employability system and how we can ensure that investment best meets our shared ambitions and is responsive to a changing labour market.

The review will be driven by the views and experiences of service users, frontline teams delivering services, and other partners, and I look forward to being involved in many of those conversations over the next few months. The review will begin with the launch of the plan today, and the first phase of discussions will run until the end of June. This will be followed by opportunities to discuss initial findings during the summer.

My officials will be in touch during April to provide you with more detail of the review process and I am keen that you and your organisation take part in discussions and in doing so, help to deliver an employability system in Scotland that meets our shared ambitions.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact either my office, or Scott Gray (scott.gray@gov.scot) in the Employability Division who will be leading the review process.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Hepburn', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

JAMIE HEPBURN