

Future Proofing the UK's Supported Businesses

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Looking back



The aim of this workshop is to reflect on the past 12-months, celebrate what we have achieved, how we have worked collaboratively as members of the National Supported Business Steering Group, made up of;

BASE National Executive Committee

BASE members; that's you guys

Supported Business Alliance

DWP

UK's Supported Businesses



Learning outcomes whilst we are together today



During today's session, you will be reminded:-

- 1) Where we set off from last November at the 2017 BASE conference;
 - As Protected Place funding ends, what could and should your plans look like?
 - Lessons learnt from Supported Businesses in Scotland and their transition from Work Choice into Work First, a provision that does not include Protected Places
 - Review of Access to Work and its application in practice
 - A chance for us to be together as a community of Supported Businesses and Social Enterprises, sharing best practice and forging links for the future



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Learning outcomes whilst we are together today



2) What developments the Supported Business Steering Group, working with the DWP have achieved for the Sector

- A new stream of Access to Work funding starting from November 2018
- Improved collaborative working between the Department and the Supported Business Steering Group
- Future proofing for 2021 going forward

3) What our 6 working groups are aiming to achieve (and how we want more members of BASE to collaborate with us, so part of the learning is about the future)

4) How all of the above fits together for the 57 Supported Businesses across the UK

5) The desire to welcome other Social Enterprises who may be eligible to future successor arrangements from 2021; is this a threat or opportunity

Highlights from the past 12-months



Ministerial statement at the 2017 BASE Conference

Subsequent notification of a new funding stream through Access to Work

Site visits by high level DWP officials alongside Access to Work test assessments

Supported Business Steering Group activity



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Evolution



To encourage a wider intervention, several Supported Business leaders have joined the Steering Group, including Watford Workshop, County Print Finishers and Industrial Service Group

From the DWP, we have been joined by the Access to Work Strategy Colleagues



Quality of provision is vital moving forward, therefore the Social Enterprise Mark CIC also joined our group

Devolution, especially in Scotland has led to our collaboration with Scottish Government officials. We've also been aware of the different impact upon Scottish Businesses due to Work Choice/Protected Places ending earlier in Scotland. Letter number 2, sent yesterday, contains specific information for Scottish Businesses and how they need to work with DWP as we move from Protected Places to the new transitional arrangements with TESG funding.

The Steering Group have also engaged with Supported Businesses and asked for volunteers; are you interested?



Celebration of achievements



Sarah Newton, Minister for Disability, Health and Work's active interest in Supported Businesses, our contribution to Disability Services and being part of what the future looks like

The Minister has pro-actively visited several Supported Businesses and is promoting you whenever possible with more to come...you were sent a letter yesterday asking for your good news stories, which the Minister wants to promote via her social media accounts



Expectations for our year to come



We have 6 Working groups;

1) Recruitment of new employees:

- i) November 18-March 19
- ii) April 19-March 21
- iii) April 21 onwards

2) Transition arrangements including the Transitional Employment Support Grant 'TESG' and standardisation of existing Access to Work provision. Again, more details of what you need to do as Supported Businesses were included in the letter sent to you yesterday

3) Proof of Concept to develop the future successor arrangements and standardisation of existing AtW



4) Communications; getting the message over to you as our Stakeholders, JCP Colleagues, customers and the general public via a variety of media outlets

5) Procurement; how can we involve other Government Departments and Statutory and Voluntary bodies in what we do

6) SEDEM (Quality Mark); to work alongside Disability Confident to show how you can offer a quality service to the market (DWP, Primes, Employers, Customers etc) and your employees

Promotion of Supported Businesses with JobCentre Plus colleagues and other stakeholders.

Reflection



Together we have evidenced that Supported Businesses are part of disability provision and services of the future

We need to provide training and employment for those who require a higher level of intervention to secure sustainable employment

We have had to establish if our offer is meeting the needs of our Commissioners and the people we want to support by reviewing our business model



Time for you to
do some
work...

What we need to learn from you



What do you feel will help the wider sector, including 'other Social Enterprises', to grow and develop;

Group A) over the shorter term (next 12-months)

Group B) over the longer term as the Extra Employment Support Grant comes on line from 2021



Group A feedback



Group B feedback



It our turn to take away..

Questions???

Thank you

