

South West RSP Performance Monitoring Group Meeting 16th March 2008

Systematic Collection of data on the impacts of recession

Background

The Employment and Skills Activity Group of the Regional Economic Task Group (RETG) wants to improve the data that it and other partners have available on the impacts that the recession is having on the labour market.

Jobcentre Plus, SLIM and the South West RDA will be meeting in mid March to look at the information currently provided and how this, or the level of analysis attached to this, could be improved.

Activity to date

Jobcentre Plus has suggested that the focus for improving data flows should be on the issues listed in italics below.

SLIM has already undertaken some analysis of the impacts of the recession on different sectors and social groups, which is summarised in the attached Powerpoint presentation.

Actions for the Performance Monitoring Group Meeting

The performance monitoring group is asked, at the meeting, to review:

- a) needs that they and their partners may have, at regional and local level;
- b) the extent to which they hold data or could provide analysis that would be helpful to the RETG, Local Employment and Skills Boards, Area Action Groups or others who are looking to better understand the impacts of the recession.

Suggestions of priorities for Analysis from Jobcentre Plus

Supply Side

- *Trend analysis of monthly JSA data, examining: overall trends; -male/female split; age split; location; occupations / sectors; vacancies sought.*

Demand

- *Trend analysis of monthly Vacancies by sector; occupation; location(by LA)*
- *Information on reasons why not filled, eg skills gap Info from Sectors would be particularly relevant.*
- *Information on **new business opportunities** reported by RDA / JCP and others, by sector/location*
- *Softer information through a watching brief of regional newspapers*

Analysis

- *Analysis of mismatches between supply and demand side, leading to unfilled vacancies.*
- *Social exclusion issues such as disproportionate impact on age / gender*
- *local impacts and considerations feeding into LAAs/ESBs*
- *ESF re-refresh considerations*
- *Sector impacts, types of jobs being lost but not replaced / structural impacts of the region*