



Stephen Kerr, Convener  
Education, Children and Young People Committee,  
The Scottish Parliament,  
Edinburgh  
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31 March 2022

Dear Stephen,

## **NO ONE LEFT BEHIND – THE SCOTTISH APPROACH TO EMPLOYABILITY**

I am writing to update the Committee on progress the Scottish Government has made with our approach to transforming employability support in Scotland to be more flexible, tailored and responsive to the needs of individuals and local labour markets.

I last wrote to you in October 2021 to notify the Committee that the Scottish Government will proceed with further implementation of No One Left behind from 1 April 2022.

Through No One Left Behind, we are working with partners to simplify the employability landscape and put in place locally tailored, holistic packages of support for individuals to move towards and into the labour market. In order to ensure maximum flexibility in service delivery, as well as join-up with other locally delivered services such as health, housing, justice and advice services, some elements of employability support will now be commissioned locally rather than nationally from April 2022.

Local Employability Partnerships within each local authority area involve a range of partners including Skills Development Scotland, Department for Work and Pensions, Colleges, NHS and third sector partners. Local Employability Partnerships have the flexibility to target support where it is needed based on the demands of the local labour market and the needs and aspirations of people who want support.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire  
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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This type of partnership and collaboration is crucial if we are to tackle poverty and inequalities that impact too many people in Scotland. Helping families to increase incomes from employment and earnings is central to a balanced and sustained approach to tackling poverty.

The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26: 'Best Start, Bright Futures', recognises the value of the No One Left Behind approach and the opportunity to increase investment in services which provide the holistic and connected support parents need to enter and progress in employment.

If Committee members would like to find out more about No One Left Behind, I encourage them to get in touch with Local Employability Partnerships in their area to find out how they are supporting people locally on their journey towards and into work. Contact details for local employability leads can be found at the following link:

<https://www.employabilityinscotland.com/local-employability-services/>

I hope the above is helpful to the Committee and I look forward to continuing to work with Parliamentary Members on employment related matters.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

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