

Health

Exploit further opportunities for alignment via the MAA via the exploration of the link between health and employment and skills. The City Region will seek to engage and sign up health partners. This will build on current activity at the local level via NESPs to better join up health and employability.

The City Region will implement and build on many of the recommendations of the Dame Carol Black report. The City Region is working with partners to submit a bid to be a "Fit for Work" pilot and intends with Government to incorporate within our existing client and employer offers the full range of employment, skills, health, mental health, social care and other services – leading to the development and delivery of more tailored packages of support for individuals and employers. This would also lead to the development of a range of processes including:

- Referral (of IB claimants) from primary care, particularly GPs to employability and extension of health support mechanisms in response to identified need e.g. condition management.
- Examine how best to utilise the availability of specialist staff such as health, work and wellbeing co-ordinators to support those both in and out of work to address a particular health issue, acting as an advocate with employers as necessary.
- Working with partners to review mental health provision, informing future service planning by using shared intelligence to direct targeted interventions and establish a pathway back to work which does not currently exist for many service users.

Housing

Further explore the links between social housing and low employment and skills to develop proposals to address associated barriers, incorporating housing services into the integrated employment and skills system. This would:

- Make more effective use of housing benefit data to plan and direct targeting of workless individuals by enhanced outreach services
- See the City Region and DWP establish a time limited task and finish group to identify what if any Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit flexibilities are appropriate to be devolved
- Explore work with workless households to combat the deterrent of loss of housing benefit preventing any individual within that household entering employment by taking a whole family approach – explore the provision of dedicated family support teams to take this forward

Children and Childcare

- Develop a child poverty strategy for the City Region
- Directly align childcare to employment and skills support, linking with Children's Centre's and schools to target not only workless parents but also those parents in employment but in receipt of low incomes; provide access to employment and skills support will ensure that front line staff are trained to give relevant advice and signposting.
- Explore the delivery of Skills Health Checks via the Children's Centre's and schools and the enhancement of the access to the provision of childcare support available to parents via a systematic assessment of childcare needs.