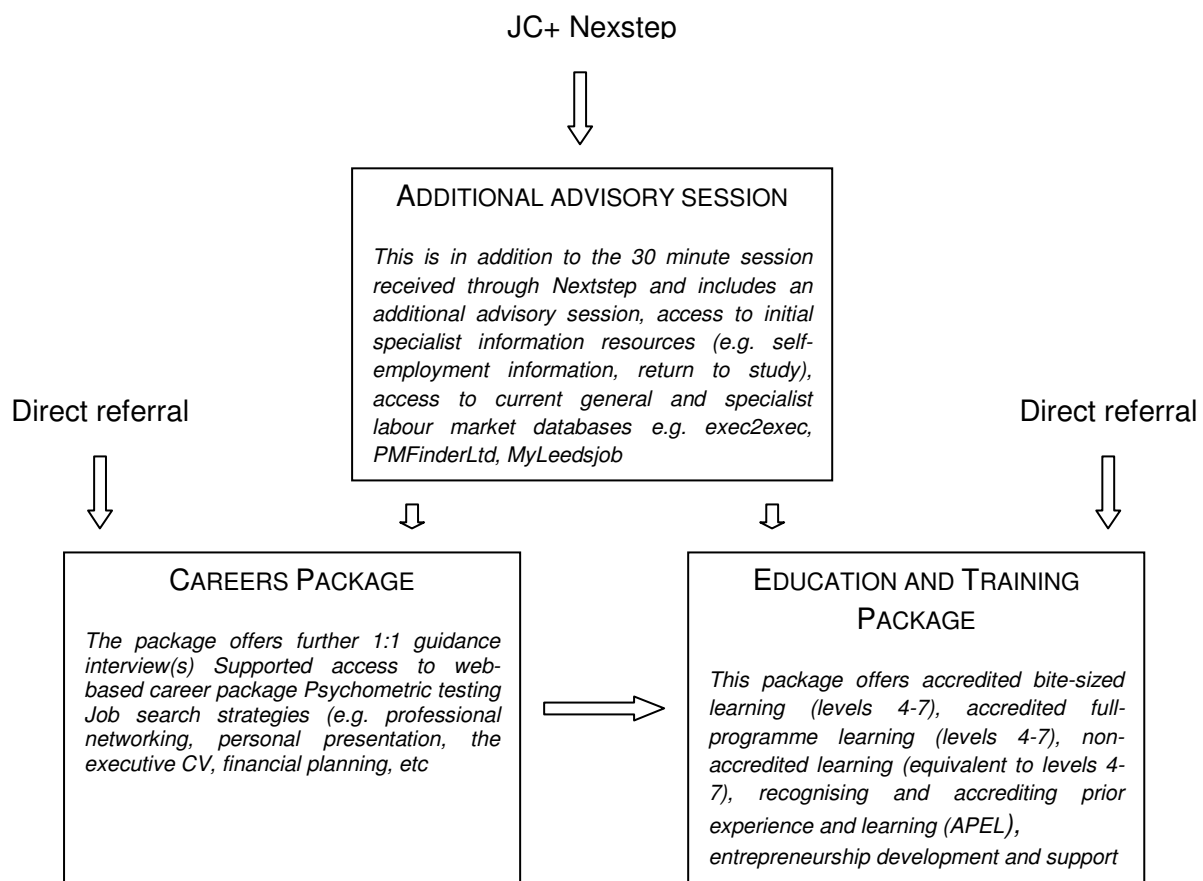


West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

WYLLN's response to the recession

1. Economic Challenge Investment Fund

- 1.1. As Board members will be aware, the WYLLN submitted a proposal to HEFCE through the University of Huddersfield as the lead institution (Annex 1). There were 12 institutions involved in addition to Huddersfield.
- 1.2. The principle of the proposal was to enhance the offer through Jobcentre Plus and the Nextstep service available to people who have been made redundant or who are at risk of being made redundant. The proposal also involved working with the five local authorities within West Yorkshire to ensure that an integrated offer is presented to the beneficiaries. This support was documented and presented to HEFCE. As with other collaborative proposals, Yorkshire Forward was willing to provide matched funding, if our proposal is successful.
- 1.3. The diagram below summarises the services that available to beneficiaries through the WYLLN proposal.



- 1.4. This offers a flexible package, which takes into account various referral routes with elements of the package having the potential to be funded by sources other than HEFCE e.g. Train to Gain Enhancement or mainstream.

2. Other activities

- 2.1. The Management Board has agreed two priorities for the Network: employer engagement and the 14-19 curriculum reforms. That was before the impact of the recession had been fully realised. Consideration should now be given as to whether the role of the Network in the recession should be included with employer engagement.
- 2.2. At a recent meeting convened by the LSC, Jobcentre Plus reported that they are now seeing a new well-qualified client group with whom they have little experience of supporting. It was agreed that, in considering the role of the higher education, it was important to maximise the existing contacts with the HE sector, that more information on the HE offer was required by Jobcentre Plus advisors and that LLNs had a key role in communications between Jobcentre Plus and the HE sector. The Board should consider whether the WYLLN should take responsibility developing this role in West Yorkshire either through ECIF, if successful, by using some of its remaining project funding or both.
- 2.3. At the last Strategic Advisory Forum the recession was adopted as the major theme for the meeting. Partners discussed the issues arising raised in this paper. The outcomes of these discussions will be fed back to the Board by the Chair of the SAF.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. The Board is asked to consider the issues raised in this paper together with the feedback from the SAF and agree an approach the LLN should adopt in supporting those people in West Yorkshire suffering from the impact of the recession.