

Fife – Know your Network 2016

A New Future for Employability Support in Scotland

24 August 2016



1. Smith: the starting point
2. UKG SR: a changed context
3. Towards a Scottish approach
4. What Next?



1. **Smith: the starting point**

2. UKG SR: a changed context

3. Towards a Scottish approach

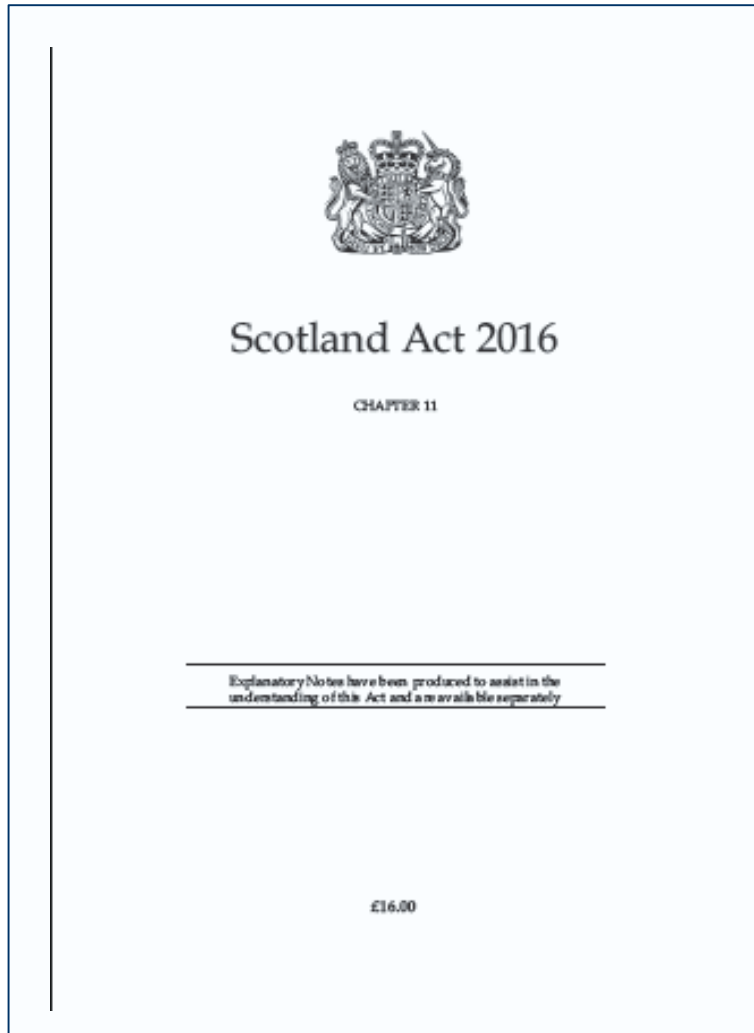
4. What Next?



The Smith Commission - November 2014

“The Scottish Parliament will have all powers over support for unemployed people through the employment programmes currently contracted by DWP (which are presently delivered mainly, but not exclusively, through the Work Programme and Work Choice) on expiry of the current commercial arrangements. The Scottish Parliament will have the power to decide how it operates these core employment support services. Funding for these services will be transferred from the UK Parliament..”

Paragraph 58 of Smith also suggested that although Jobcentre Plus may remain reserved, “ the UK and Scottish Government will identify ways to further link services through methods such as co-location wherever possible and establish more formal mechanisms to govern the Jobcentre Plus network in Scotland.”



- a) assisting disabled persons to select, obtain and retain employment;
- b) assisting persons claiming reserved benefits who are at risk of long-term unemployment to select, obtain and retain employment, where the assistance is for at least a year;
- c) assisting employers to obtain suitable employees who are persons referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

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2015 UK Spending Review, redefined the landscape

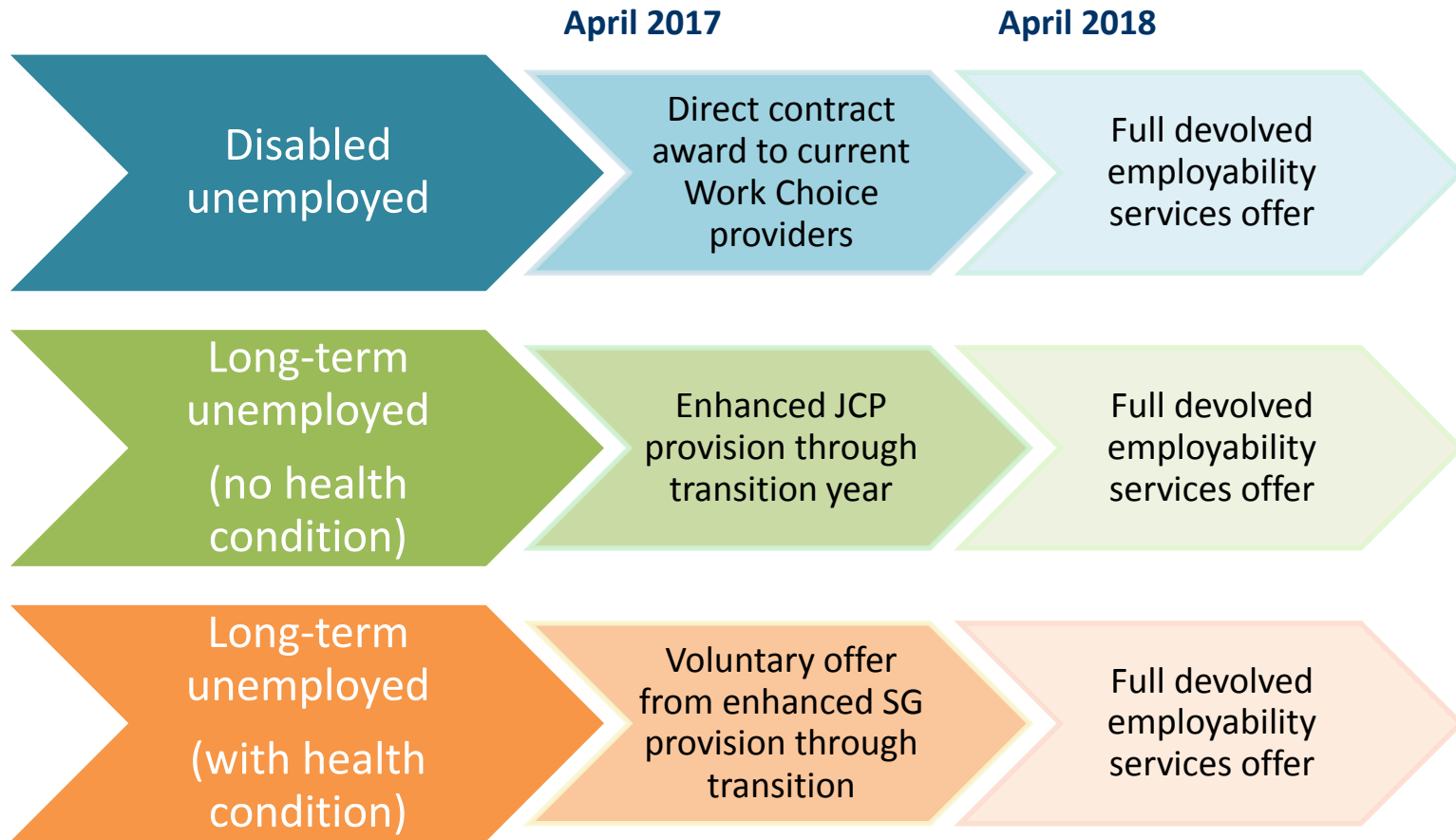
- Work Programme and Work Choice will end across the UK in April 2017
- Replaced by new Work and Health Programme – still in development
- A reduction in the funding available for contracted employment support - from an anticipated £54m in 2016/17 – to £4.8m – reduction of over 90%

In response, Scottish Ministers agreed:

- one-year transitional services from 1st April 2017,
- as a stepping stone to a full devolved offer in April 2018.
- funded by an additional £20m from SG funding in 2016-17; and
- a commitment to invest an additional £20 million a year - over and above the funding transferred from Westminster – to deliver employment support



Changed context



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- July 2015 – Public consultation launched
- October 2015 – Consultation closed
- December 2015 – Analysis of consultation responses shared with Ministers
- March 2016 – Response to consultation and six guiding principles published
- May 2016 – Priorities for Government



Big opportunities

- Engagement and Collaboration
- The Scottish Approach to design and delivery
- Public Sector Reform

Big challenges

- Integration and Alignment

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- Devolved services will be in place – the “Scottish approach”
- On track for delivery of transitional services in 2017
- More detail on 2018 service will be communicated later this year
- Continued engagement / consultation with our stakeholder network