Supporting Youth in Education and Employment

<u>Legend</u>
Question in red were added by the facilitator
Bolded points were identified by participants as priority.
Numbers in brackets ( ) represent the amount of participants in the session who identified this point as most important.

1a) Do we have a shared vision locally around Supporting Youth in Education and Employment?

9 participants felt that we do not have a shared vision, 4 felt that we maybe have a shared vision and 0 felt that we do have a shared vision. Discussion:

- A lot of people interested in the issue, but not everyone is coming at is from the same angle.
- There's a shared vision but it's not coordinated.
- Many have the agenda but often work individually. Not connecting with the people that we have to connect with. An event like the conference today gives us an opportunity to have a shared conversation.

1b) What would it be?

- **Ottawa as a supportive community is committed to providing equal and accessible opportunities for meaningful employment and education for youth of all abilities.**
- Ottawa is committed to being a city where every youth has an individualized success plan throughout their formative years. A continuum that leads to meaningful/valuable contribution.

1c) Is there urgency for change?

- Some urgency around youth in general, with pockets around the city that address education and employment.

2a) What are your thoughts on a shared agenda or vision? What key elements would be there?

- (11)**Having a framework – issue ownership/coordination**
- (3)A common vocabulary on how agencies can develop those plans and be client centered.
- (2)Common interest/common set of principles
- (5)**Collaboration**
- (1)Communication
- (2)Engagement

- (3)Neighbourhood specific
- (1)Flexible/adaptive
- (0)Actual work
- (4)**Money, time and resources**
- (4)**Champions who are willing to push change – School Board**
- (2)Different activities to same goal

2b) What would be the added benefit for engaging in a shared vision/agenda?

- (1)Knowledge
- (6)**Power in numbers**
- (0)Reduction in demand for social services
- (1)Tax base for the future
- (3)**Ability to fund the issue and not the organizations**
- (4)**Consistency of resources and successes**
- (0)Strengthens and motivates a team
- (0)Inclusion of all parties
- (2)Organizations role in larger vision

3a) What needs to happen to achieve the shared vision? What needs to be in place?

- (0)Spread the word
- (0)Establish goals/framework
- (0)Youth need to be represented (buy in)
- (9)**Identify key players**
- (6)**Develop a backbone**
- (3)Identify champion(s)
- (7)**Get behind a single idea**

3b) Who can put them in place? Who are the key players?

- **Youth**
- **Schools**
- **School boards**
- Ministry of Education
- Teacher's unions
- CHRC's
- Private sector
- Parents and Guardians
- **Funders**
- **Government – all levels**
- Faith groups
- Community leaders
- Bottom up

- Support from top
- Non profits
- Population wide
- Recreation groups
- Youth organizations (eg. Boys and Girls Club)
- Ottawa Police Services
- Media

3c) Who would, could or should be a champion?

- **United Way**
- Community foundations
- Trillium
- **The Mayor**
- City Councillor
- Chief of Police
- MP's, MPP's
- School Resource Officers
- Youth group role models
- **Youth hero (hockey player, pop star, etc.)**
- **Youth themselves**
- Health officers
- **Those in the area who are a stakeholder in the issue (angry with caring mother's)**

4) What are the gaps and barriers for achieving it?

- **Time**
- **Money**
- Buy in/engagement
- Scheduling
- Focus on framework and shared vision
- Timing – take advantage of urgency
- Environment
- **Leadership**
- Developing a long term strategic plan
- **School boards**
- Parents
- Territorialism
- Stigma (College versus University)
- Companies taking advantage (eg. unpaid internships that don't realize into a paid position)
- Time (funders looking for instantaneous results)
- **Getting people to the table**

- Educating on outcomes

5) How would we address the gaps? What are the next steps?

- **Get school boards to the table**
- **Communicate "can do" attitude**
- Find a champion
- Look at current activity/best practices
- Central backbone
- Take information back to organizations
- Communicate our own success to stakeholders
- Make it a priority in your own organization
- **Finding ways to involve youth**
- Create political platform
- **Create attention "word out"**
- Change attitudes