

PEOPLE PROGRAMME BOARD

Worklessness and Youth Unemployment Update



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

A summary report compiled by **Kathy McHugo (Leadership Associate – Employment Skills and Education Links) – 10th August 2012**

The current position

1. Unemployment overview

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)		June 12
Claimant Count	2011-12	6,515
18-24 Claimant Count	2011-12	2,225

- The percentage of total claimants aged 18-24 remains relatively high at 34% compared to 29% nationally, confirming the characteristic of the city having a large 18-24 year old population and a large proportion of 18-24 year old claimants.
- Long-term claimant rate increasing. Since April 2011, the number has more than doubled from 680 (10% of claimants) to 1,500 (22%). The greatest contribution (more than 50%) towards the net increase in long-term claimants in Plymouth came from the 25-49 year old age group: Job Centre Plus (JCP) - March 12 Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) count.

2. Careers Southwest (CSW) data on the 16-18 cohort (June 12)

Plymouth	NEET %	Not Known %	In Learning %
June 2012	7.7%	1.8%	84.8%
June 2011	8.4%	3.0%	80.7%
Variance	- 0.7%	- 1.2%	+ 4.1%

At the time of this report July figures were not available, but an increase would be expected as young people completing post-16 studies enter the labour market.

Tackling the Issue

1. Cabinet Response

During a recent scrutiny panel process looking in to the issue of Youth Unemployment it became clear that there were particular issues faced by those in the 18-24 age group when it comes to gaining employment. As a result of this process a number of recommendations were made to cabinet, of which the two key ones are outlined below:

- a) The 1000 Club Campaign. The aim is to recruit 1000 people to commit to support young people into employment, whether that is through work experience, apprenticeship or graduate internships.
- b) An employability workshop to be staged in October to facilitate a mutual understanding of how education and employers in Plymouth can work together collaboratively and effectively to enable young people to develop employability skills.

2 Apprenticeships

2.1 Youth Apprenticeship starts

- Apprenticeship data (August 2011 – April 2012) shows the number of Plymouth starters in the 16-18 age range have increased from 638 to 717, although this year's achievement rates have dropped slightly on the previous year.
- For this age group the top three sector subject areas are Business Admin & Finance, Engineering & Manufacturing, Construction/ Planning & Built Environment and Retail & Communication Technology.

2.2. Apprenticeship vacancies

- Apprenticeship Live on 30 July show 45 live vacancies from 33 employers*.
- Apprenticeships frameworks offered are in Hospitality & Catering, Health & Social Care and Business, Administration & Law accounting for 47% of all vacancies.
- The top four Learning Providers are City College Plymouth, Focus training, GHQ and PCS, and they account for 62% of the vacancies.

**These figures represent only those vacancies placed on the National Apprenticeship Services Vacancy Matching Service and do not reflect total numbers of Apprenticeship vacancies in Plymouth.*

2.3 Plymouth City Council Apprenticeships

- In terms of the City Councils agenda to increase opportunities for work experience and Apprenticeships, it's current tally is 50 Apprentices (of which 32 are under 25) this is a significant increase on last year's figure of 26.
- This year's new programme to provide work placements has so far recruited 20, of which nine have already progressed into employment.

3 What are we doing as a People Directorate to address the challenge of reducing the number of Young People aged 16-18 who are NEET?

Key projects from the 11-19 plan, which has 12 areas of focus, include:

- Commissioning CSW to deliver a Youth contract targeting 20% Young people in Plymouth aged 14-19 (Preventative work as well as reengagement work).
- Successful application to Education Funding Agency (EFA) for exceptional funding for 70 learning places to address gaps in provision to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, including teenage parents and Young Carers. Contract awarded by EFA to City College Plymouth.
- Working with Whiz Kidz, a social enterprise, on a project funded by the Department for Education (DfE) running workshops to develop employability skills for NEETs and providing progression routes into job and apprenticeship opportunities in small and micro businesses. So far NEETs have attended two employability workshops and one employer recruitment briefing has been undertaken.

- We have secured funding from the DWP to run a course to train 30 volunteers to mentor Young People aged 18+ who are NEET and support them back into employment. So far 17 mentors have been enrolled/begun training and further recruitment commences for a new term beginning in September.
- We are involved in an internal officers group which will support the work of the Plan for Jobs Task Group.

Next steps

- Working with Prospect Training (based in Gloucester), who have been awarded an EFA contract to re-engage NEETs aged 16 and 17, starting in September 2012.
- Setting up a Placement Panel involving CSW and learning providers to ensure that YP who do not have an offer of learning for September 12 are discussed and catered for.

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