

CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

14 December 2012

Projects and activities to support employment
for young people



1. Inspire event

Inspire 12 is a one-stop-shop for 14 to 19 year olds and their parents to explore educational and vocational opportunities with locally based employers, FE/HE and training providers. The event is held in October each year in the Roland Levinsky Building at Plymouth University and is split into two sessions – throughout the day students come to the event with their schools and in the evening young people come with their parents.

The event offers exciting, vibrant and interactive ways to showcase career opportunities for students as well as further education, employment, higher education and apprenticeships routes. Students and parents also gain an insight into university life by booking onto the university tours hosted by University of Plymouth student Ambassadors.

This event is funded and organised by Plymouth City Council's 11-19 Schools and Settings team, in collaboration Careers South West, Tamar Education & Business Partnership. Additional support is provided by volunteer 'helpers' from City College Plymouth students, PCC Apprenticeship Ambassadors and Whiz Kidz students from their Bootcamp programme. All volunteers gain valuable employability and customer service skills from helping as reception and exhibition assistants. This year's event attracted in excess of 1450 visitors and forty exhibitors. Over 650 students from 15 Plymouth secondary, special schools and academies attended, along with an estimated 800 parents.

2. NEETS into Employment initiative (Bootcamp)

The NEETS into employment initiative is a partnership between Plymouth City Council's 11-19 team and Whiz Kidz, a Social Enterprise that successfully supports young people into employment and self-employment through various initiatives.

Commencing in May this year this initiative aims to support 25 NEETS, referred to by CSW and JCP, into Apprenticeships, as well as providing 60 places to develop employability skills. The young people enrolled onto the scheme attend a 'Bootcamp', which consists of a one week intense programme to prepare them for the world of work. Key elements of the Bootcamp include intensive advice and guidance, core skills, real applications of maths, literacy, IT & communications, employer drop in, opportunities for work experience as well as help with practical skills such as CV writing, mock interviews and job applications.

This initiative forms part of the 11-19 team's Raising participation Plan and RPA funding helps to pay for the tutors and mentors engaged in delivering various elements of the programme, which includes raising confidence and self-esteem, interpersonal skills, self-employment, understanding the employers point of view, interview techniques as well as understanding personal and business financial management.

To date the initiative has placed six students into employment or apprenticeships, seven have gained valuable work experience placements and one has progressed into further learning. Students continue to receive mentoring and support when the Bootcamp finishes until they progress into learning, self-employment or employment.

3. Volunteer Mentor Training programme

The Volunteer Mentor Training programme runs from May to December 2012 and aims to recruit and train thirty inspirational people to build the capacity of skilled mentors to support some of the cities fast growing number of unemployed young people and NEETS aged 16-25. Since the programme commenced it has attracted some fantastic people from such diverse backgrounds as Human Resources, Youth Service, Voluntary, Private and Public sector workers, as well as the Sports and Medical professions.

The programme offers up to 20 hours of free training in eight modules to learn the skills needed to mentor young people and includes Safeguarding, Working with Young People, Conflict Management, and Re-enforcing competencies in modern CV writing and interview techniques.

Led by Plymouth City Council's 11-19 team its success to date is due to strong collaborations with delivery partners, who are Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Services and Whiz Kidz. The next steps to develop a Matching Service with Jobcentre Plus and Careers South West will be trialed in December and January.

4. NEET Prevention

The 11-19 team works collaboratively with partners to gain and influence funding to support the cities agenda to reduce NEETS. This includes:

- The 11-19 team continues to work alongside strategic partners on a regional and local basis to influence the development of programmes and projects to ensure programmes deliver opportunities for young people in Plymouth to successfully move into sustainable outcomes including HE/Apprenticeships and work.
- **European Social Fund (ESF):** The 11-19 team is providing Education Funding Agency details of the specific vulnerable groups, priority activities and support requirements to meet the needs of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. This will ensure future ESF specifications will provide provision which delivers the appropriate:
 - Engagement activities that break down barriers to further learning
 - Student support activities
 - Young people's employability skills
 - Employer/placement brokerage
- **Gap in Provision:** The 11-19 Team successfully secured 70 additional 16-19 places for 2012/13 to provide places for young people without Post-16 offers or where offers have fallen through. This is supported by a newly formed Transition Panel that has supported engagement of 22 YPs in Sept/Oct. The panel will be working with the EFA's Youth Contract provider in the new-year to ensure the 80 places in this provision are targeted against our priority vulnerable groups.
- **11-19 Plan:** Focus two of the plan is improving our range, analysis and use of data. This includes our Risk of NEET Indicator (RoNI) which is used to identify the common factors/characteristics (such as SEN statements/persistence absences/attainment levels from KSI-KS4) of our 16/17 year olds and those that appear to be particularly linked to young people experiencing periods of NEET. This enables the LA advisers to influence secondary school heads and service leads to better target resources to support YR9/10/11 pupils with similar characteristics.

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