

Increasing Participation in East Sussex

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Welcome to the spring/summer term issue of the Increasing Participation in East Sussex newsletter. The newsletter provides information on activities led by the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) to help increase the participation of young people in learning. We hope that you find it useful.

Please send any comments and feedback on this newsletter and the issues covered to the editor Caroline McKiddie at caroline.mckiddie@eastsussex.gov.uk

Raising the Participation Age Targets achieved

Caroline McKiddie

We have now achieved all of our academic year (2014/15) targets in relation to Participation, NEET and Not Known and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support and commitment to achieving those targets. This has been a real joint effort, at both operational and strategic level and across a wide range of services and providers, including schools, colleges, training providers and the services (including our third sector colleagues) who provide the additional encouragement, patience and support to help our young people achieve.

Headline data (March 2015)

96 % of academic age 16 are meeting the RPA Duty to Participate

88% of academic age 17 are meeting the RPA Duty to Participate

We performed ahead of both England and the South East for meeting the Duty to Participate for academic age 16 and 17 in March 2015

The data dashboards, along with other relevant data are available to download from

<https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/eet/post-16learning/Pages/neet.aspx>



Any Plans for Next Year?

We are undertaking a communications campaign to help raise awareness of RPA changes from September 2015. This includes a postcard mail out to all current year 12, targeting them and their parents/carers, giving links to key information, as well as promoting our You're Hired Apprenticeship Campaign (see apprenticeship section below)

Any plans for next year?
Did you know that you now need to stay in education or training up to the age of 18? This could be college, 6th form or a job with training, such as an apprenticeship.

Walk this way:
C360.org.uk/RPA

An apprenticeship could be the way forward.
If you are 16-18 and want help applying for an apprenticeship contact:
YES Youth Employability Service
01323 410803 or 01424 722045
or message us at
facebook.com/YESEastSussex

You're hired!
East Sussex Apprenticeships

Update on 18 year olds

Caroline McKiddie

As reported in the previous RPA newsletter, the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) was inspected by Ofsted in June 2014 under the framework for the local authority inspection of school improvement arrangements and one of the areas they highlighted for improvement was to reduce the number of 18 year olds who were recorded as NEET. Since June we have therefore put in place a number of interventions to support our academic age 18 cohort and to reduce the number who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). In summary, this has included a dedicated advisor (based within our Youth Employability Service –YES) to work with 18 year olds who are NEET, providing support and advice to help them progress into sustained EET. The advisor currently has a caseload of 88 young people, 53 of whom have been supported into EET. We have also implemented more robust data collection and recording systems and processes, undertaken a detailed analysis of our NEET 18 year cohort and subsequently implemented a more targeted approach to interventions. Additionally 132, 18 year olds have been actively involved in the targeted YES Apprenticeship work (see section below), 30 of whom have already progressed into an apprenticeship.

Overall impact to date:

NEET: academic age 18 (Yr14) Target of <10% achieved and a significant improvement on last year with March 2015 at **6.7%** compared to **14.7%** in March 2014, we are also performing ahead of England with 7.5% and South East with 7.3%.

The data dashboards, along with other relevant data are available to download from <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/eet/post-16learning/Pages/neet.aspx>

Young people say YES to apprenticeships

Caroline Bragg

Young people from across East Sussex received career advice and support after attending an apprenticeship matching event at the Eastbourne Arndale Centre on 30 April. The event, organised by the East Sussex Youth Employability Service (YES) was held as part of the You're Hired East Sussex Apprenticeship campaign.



The event gave people the opportunity to talk one to-one with the YES team and training providers, and to receive help and advice with applying for apprenticeships and submitting applications. Interest in apprenticeships proved high, with the event attracting a steady stream people throughout the day.

“These events are great as they help you to find out what you want to do” said Lawrie Goodman, a Year 11 student who is currently considering his options after finishing school.

Another Year 11 student, Miguel Ottmann, was also positive about his future options “Apprenticeships seem like a great idea and something people should consider – I know I definitely will,” he said.

Dan Vernon who works for the YES East Sussex team providing information, advice and guidance for 16-18 year olds, was clear about the importance of these events “Apprenticeships are high on the political agenda at the moment, so it’s important that we provide opportunities for people to access the right information in order to help them make the best decision for their future”.

YES are partners of the You're Hired East Sussex Campaign, led by East Sussex County Council. The campaign, which launched on 9th March, during National Apprenticeship Week, is helping local businesses strengthen their workforce, and create job and training opportunities for young people in East Sussex. The campaign is seeking 500 pledges from businesses across all five districts and boroughs of East Sussex over 5 months. It also wants to encourage those interested in becoming an apprentice or undertaking training to come forward, and our YES advisors and training providers will support young people with the skills they need to be ready for the world of work.

YES are supporting young people aged 16-18 to apply for apprenticeships. To find out more contact YES on 01323 410803 or 01424 722045, or message them on Facebook www.facebook.com/YESEastSussex

Or visit www.apprenticeships.gov.uk to find out more about apprenticeships.

Launch of the new C360.org.uk website

Robert Moore



We are nearing the launch of our brand new C360.org.uk website replacing our existing Connexions 360 website. The new website has been designed with input and support from young people, including East Sussex Youth Cabinet members, the website will be fully mobile compatible and google friendly to meet the demands of young people in the modern age. The new website will continue to provide the young people of East Sussex with information on a wide variety of subjects such as education, employment and training, sexual health, youth service and youth cabinet activities, and the East Sussex Local Offer. There will be promotional activities throughout the coming months to raise awareness in schools and encourage young people, parents/carers and professionals to search for, or visit, the new website when needing information, advice or guidance.

Live from 29th May: www.c360.org.uk



Young Enterprise success

Caroline Bragg

East Sussex County Council has committed to further funding the Young Enterprise Company programme after students from East Sussex have proved they have a head for business after impressing the judges in a national competition

Teams from Robertsbridge Community College, Seaford Head School and Bishop Bell Church of England School battled against schools from across Sussex for a place in the regional finals of the Young Enterprise competition – with the team from Bishop Bell victorious.

A total of 690 students from 17 schools across East Sussex took part in this year’s competition, which sees youngsters creating companies, developing and marketing a product, before selling it at trade fairs.

The efforts of the 64 companies created were judged by the Young Enterprise Panel, who selected three teams to go through to the Sussex final;

- Robertsbridge Community College; Siren Designs – producing tie dyed cloth bags
- Bishop Bell, Eastbourne; Quantique – producing a range of letter-themed products including cuff-links, magnets and coasters
- Seaford Head; East Sussex Iconic – producing mugs with Sussex-based photographs and poetry

After impressing the panel at the Sussex final with their product, business plan and sales figures earlier this month, the team from Bishop Bell were selected to go on to the regional round to fight for a place in the national finals on 17th June.



Sussex Company of the Year: Quantique, Bishop Bell Church of England School, Eastbourne. Photograph courtesy of Tori Clarkson, a young enterprise alumni.

Student Hannah, managing director of Bishop Bell’s Quantique, said: “We’re thrilled to win Best Overall Company for Young Enterprise in Sussex. It means so much to us and makes the hard work well worth it. We’ve come such a long way since we started the Company Programme in September last year, and have

learned so much.”

Wendy Gorham, Young Enterprise Manager for East Sussex, said: “We’ve had some great companies set up by young people in Sussex this year with some wonderful innovative products and they’ve demonstrated a real entrepreneurial thirst for business. The judges at the county final scrutinised their business reports and profit margins and each team showcased their products and gave a presentation. It was a great opportunity for them to demonstrate the business skills they’ve learnt on the Young Enterprise Company Programme.”

East Sussex County Council are committed to increasing the number of maintained schools, sixth forms, special schools, academies and FE colleges taking up the opportunity to run the Young Enterprise Company Programme in 2015/16. ESCC will subsidise those schools who have previously run the Company Programme with a £150 financial contribution to any Company Programme. And we will pay the full cost of £500 for up to 15 schools who have not previously run the Company programme, with a limit of one Company per school/college.

For further information, please contact caroline.bragg@eastsussex.gov.uk Please respond by **30th June**, and funding will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

UCAS Progress – online applications from this autumn

Robert Moore



We are pleased to announce that from the autumn term learners will be able to apply for 2016/17 courses using the UCAS Progress online application process. The majority of colleges, school sixth forms and training providers in East Sussex and our neighbouring authorities, will have their provision on display and be accepting applications via the system. This is a major step forward to offer young people a single application process, which will benefit both learners and schools.

Training for school staff will be provided by UCAS Progress in early June. The session for schools in the West of the county is being held at Sussex Downs College, Eastbourne on the morning of June 3rd (9.30-12.00). In the East, there will be a session at Sussex Coast College Hastings on June 12th (9.00-11.30)

To book on, follow the relevant link here:

Eastbourne: www.ucasevents.com/upsussex0306

Hastings: www.ucasevents.com/upsussex1206

All current year 10 learners will receive login details over the summer term, allowing them to create their online application profiles and search for courses, in readiness to start applying for courses in October. Individual login details can either be delivered to learners via e-mail or letter, schools should contact aspire@eastsussex.gov.uk to arrange.

Visit the UCAS Progress website for more information on the search and apply function and utilise their careers information, advice and guidance pages full of useful tools and resources for learners, parents, careers advisors and teachers.

www.ucas.com/progress

UCAS Progress

Next event: There are no upcoming events for this section. - [More events](#)

Keyword search

After GCSEs Undergraduate Conservatoires Teacher Training Postgraduate Not sure

Getting started Find a course Apply Help and support

Information and advice on your next steps after GCSEs

Find out more

1. Getting started

- What you need to do now
- What you can do after GCSEs
- [Step-by-step guide](#)
- Career and job ideas

2. Find a course

- [Search for courses](#)
- [Qualifications you can take](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Traineeships](#)

3. Apply

- [Log on to UCAS Progress](#)
- [Applying](#)
- [Interview tips](#)
- [Writing a personal statement](#)

4. Help and support

- [Where to get help](#)
- [Parents and carers](#)
- [Teachers and advisers](#)
- [Local information](#)

Give us your feedback

National Career Service – contract update

Rebecca Parsons

As of April 1st 2015, CXK took over the National Career Service contract in East Sussex, Kent and Essex. They have subsequently awarded sub-contracts to People Matter, Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) and Sussex Coast College. People Matter will be covering Eastbourne and Wealden, SCDA will cover Lewes and Newhaven and some cover at Eastbourne Jobs Hub, and Sussex Coast College will be covering Hastings and Rother.

The service is available to everyone aged 18+ and can be accessed via the web, telephone and face-to-face. The service will be able to offer FREE, confidential and impartial advice on anything related to work and learning opportunities.

CXK have also taken on the Inspiration Agenda which is a Government initiative to help make and strengthen links with education providers, employers and young people. This is with the aim of inspiring, motivating and helping young people make informed choices through independent and aspirational information being available. CXK are leading on this agenda with an emphasis on providing specific and relevant labour market information across East Sussex, Kent and Essex.

For more information contact Rebecca Parsons, Eastbourne Jobs Hub Manager at Eastbourne Library
 Rebecca.Parsons@eastsussex.gov.uk 01323 463728 Mobile: 07919 167685

New approach to boost employment and skills in East Sussex

Holly Aquilina

A Strategic body aimed at bringing together leading figures from education and industry to boost employment and skills has held its first meeting. Skills East Sussex (SES) was established as part of East Sussex County Council’s employability and skills strategy, launched last year.

SES includes representatives from schools, colleges and universities, careers services, business networks and employers, will meet quarterly to discuss how they can ensure that employers can access skilled staff locally. The first SES meeting focused on the construction sector, with representatives from companies large and small from across the county. Subsequent meetings will have different business sector focuses. The SES meetings allow businesses to explain the obstacles they face to recruiting skilled staff, influence the type of training provision available and clarify how they can help by offering work experience, apprenticeships and supporting careers guidance.

Graham Peters, chairman of Skills East Sussex and vice chairman of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “It’s vital to the economy of East Sussex that businesses based in the county are able to tap into the skilled workforce they need from within the local area.”

Becky Shaw, ESCC chief executive, said: “Making sure people in East Sussex, and in particular young people, have the skills that businesses need is vital both in ensuring existing companies can thrive and in attracting new investment in jobs into the county.”

Skills East Sussex, will set priorities and provide direction for the county's approach to employment and skills, informed by labour market and skills analysis being developed by the county council. The group will also link in with other strategic partnerships to ensure that businesses and residents are well supported. A strategic, long-term approach will be devised on how to best target spending, time, resources and careers campaigns to ensure there is sufficient academic and skills provision, careers advice, apprenticeships, workforce development and sustained employment across East Sussex.



Representatives from business and education attended the inaugural meeting of Skills East Sussex:
Front (from left): Gene Payne, (Head Teacher Causeway School), Becky Shaw (East Sussex County Council chief executive), Graham Peters (chairman of Skills East Sussex), Christina Eubank, (Chamber of Commerce)
Back (from left): Martin Ellis (Recruitment South East), Melanie Hunt, (Principal, Sussex Downs College), Sonia Plato (Horizons), Paul Mitchell (Sussex Council of Training Providers), Amanda Menahem (Hastings Direct)