

Increasing Participation in East Sussex

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Welcome to the spring 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 Jessica Stubbings at jessica.stubbings@eastsussex.gov.uk

Council celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

Sarah Hinks

Helping young people to gain vital training and earn a wage at the same time, apprenticeships are gaining popularity as a viable alternative to university. As an advocate and employer of apprentices, the County Council held a range of events from 3 - 8 March to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

- Brief Bite sessions for managers on recruiting and supporting apprentices were held providing information on how teams can offer a range of opportunities for young people.
- A Build East Sussex event held on Tuesday 4 March at the Amex stadium was an opportunity to promote and encourage our contractors and suppliers to develop opportunities for young people and those from vulnerable groups, in the construction sector including through the use of the Training Apprenticeships in Construction (TrAC) scheme.
- On Wednesday 5 March, the Lead Member for Learning and Schools Effectiveness, Councillor Bennett, job-shadowed a civil engineering apprentice Peter Sutton, who is currently working on the Bexhill to Hastings link road project.
- To end the week, the Business Services Directorate held an Apprenticeship Open Day on Thursday 6 March, to help people find out more about becoming an apprentice at the Council, specialising in finance, ICT, personnel, property and procurement. The Open Day offered the inside track on what being an apprentice is really like, with staff on hand from each service area to talk about the sort of work apprentices could expect to do and how to apply for the new pilot programme.

The Youth Employability Service (YES) was on hand at all the events to provide the opportunity for young people to sign up for further support in obtaining a successful apprenticeship. If you know a young person (16 – 24 years old) who interested in finding out more about apprenticeships they can receive face to face advice from the YES team – contact Dan Vernon on 07803 249043 or 01323 410803 Dan.Vernon@themytrust.org

Enterprising Education

Caroline McKiddie

The Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) have identified the development of employability and enterprise skills as a key priority and we have commissioned the charity Young Enterprise to offer secondary schools, special schools and further education colleges the opportunity to participate in variety of funded enterprise programmes. As part of this project we will be collating feedback from the schools and colleges involved and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the enterprise programmes to inform future developments.

Young Enterprise programmes are designed to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise and be prepared for the world of work through “learning by doing”. Young Enterprise is the UK’s largest business and enterprise education charity and key to the success of their programmes is the engagement of volunteers from business who provide positive working role models for students, bridging the gap between education and industry.

Would you like the opportunity of promoting enterprise in your school/college or enhancing what you already do? Young Enterprise offers a number of different programmes of varying length and type for you to choose from. If you are interested in taking up this offer and want to find out more please contact **Wendy Gorham Young Enterprise Manager:** wendy.gorham@y-

East Sussex
County Council



GOALS

Caroline McKiddie

We are piloting a new programme which focuses on changing the mindset and attitudes of some of our most disadvantaged and hardest to reach young people. The programme aims to help young people to reach a point where they are ready to move on and progress positively with their lives; and ultimately motivating them to move into sustainable education, employment and training. GOALS has been chosen following six months of research into good practice in this area nationally, the model is based on training staff locally to deliver the programme so that it is sustainable in the longer term.

Following discussions with a range of colleagues across the Council we have commissioned GOALS UK to pilot a series of multiagency staff training sessions and to deliver the 3 days GOALS motivational programme to some of our disengaged young people in East Sussex.

More information about GOALS (it's nothing to do with football!) can be found on:

<http://www.goalsuk.org> and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0Cpx_OfDUg

For more information about the East Sussex pilot of GOALS contact: Caroline McKiddie: Partnership Manager: Education, Employment & Training. Phone: 01323 463729 or 07769 164170 Email: caroline.mckiddie@eastsussex.gov.uk

Opt Into

Caroline McKiddie

Sussex Downs College has been successful in winning an ESF contract for the South East to support those not in education, employment and/or training. The college are now rolling out their Opt-Into programme with their delivery partners; Sussex Coast College Hastings, NCDA (now re-named SCDA), CRI and Medway Youth Trust (Who deliver our Youth Employability Service).

The programme aims to help those young people who are not sure about their future, by providing the stepping stones to get them ready to start work or enter further education. It's flexible, informal and fun, providing a wide range of opportunities and experiences
More information is available on: www.optinto.co.uk

National Citizen Service

Caroline McKiddie

The National Citizen Service (NCS) is the Government's flagship personal and social development programme for young people. NCS is promoted as a once in a lifetime opportunity, open to all 16-17 olds in years 11 and 12, from all schools and colleges including state funded, special and independent and those 16 & 17 year olds who are currently not in education, employment training or training. NCS is a 4 week programme delivered over the summer holidays, young people get the opportunity to take part in two challenging residentials and deliver a social action project in their local community. In the summer 2014 East Sussex

local deliver partners are:

- Catch 22 (Eastbourne, Seaford and Lewes Areas)
Start dates; 7th July or 14th August
- Hastings YMCA (Hastings, St Leonards on Sea and Bexhill areas)
Start dates; 14th July
- CXK (Heathfield, Rye and Robertsbridge areas)
Start dates: 18th July, 22nd July, 26th July and 30th July

The NCS team are happy to come and present to groups of young people in schools, colleges, youth centres and community settings and/or meet with young people individually to discuss the programme in more detail. For further information please email Kristen Stevenson (Senior Engagement Coordinator South East) kirsten.stevenson@ukyouth.org or visit the website www.thencsnetwork.org.uk

Youth Employability Service – Support available

Robert Moore

'YES' our new Youth Employability Service in East Sussex has been running since 1st October 2013, delivering a targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Support Service for 16-18 year olds. YES provide IAG support to vulnerable 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of disengaging to help them participate successfully in education and progress to employment. The support provided includes: one-to-one support for young people, group sessions and re-engagement programmes. The YES offices in Eastbourne and Hastings are both fully operational and their outreach sessions in different venues across the county are now underway.

Schools and colleges are encouraged to start considering which Year 11 and Year 12 learners they feel would benefit from a referral to YES to enable successful progression to post-16 learning. Once a referral is made YES will be able to provide support leading up to, and over, the summer. To make a referral, or for more information please contact YES directly:

Rory Abbott, Head of Youth Employability rory.abbott@themytrust.org

Eastbourne centre

Upperton House
The Avenue
Eastbourne
01323 410803

Hastings centre

11 Cambridge Road
Hastings
01424 722045

Email: enquiries@themytrust.org

Website: www.medwayyouthtrust.org

UCAS Progress – Course Finder Update

Robert Moore

The UCAS Progress website is currently showing a wide range of 2014/15 courses provided by colleges, school sixth forms and training providers in East Sussex and our neighbouring authorities. Over 80% of all FE colleges and school sixth forms in East Sussex and Brighton

and Hove have now signed up to display their provision on UCAS Progress as well as Central Sussex College and almost all colleges and school sixth forms in Kent. Learners can search using course name, provider name and by location/distance to travel. The UCAS Progress website can be viewed on the following link: <https://www.ucasprogress.com/>

The model of an on-line course finder was recently endorsed in a speech made by the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg who announced in a recent speech that local authorities will be: 'responsible for providing a 'UCAS-style one stop online shop' for young people..... to help young people make choices about the training, apprenticeships, courses or other work-based programmes available in their area. This will allow people to more easily find out about and apply for all the options available to them in their local area'.

UCAS Progress fits in with this proposal and we await more details on how a national model will be rolled out including an on-line application system.

Do we need a website for young people in East Sussex?

Robert Moore

The team is currently reviewing how we provide information on education/training and related support to young people, parents/carers and professionals in East Sussex and asking the question whether there is demand for a dedicated young person's website in East Sussex.

[Connexions360](#) currently provides information on education, employment and training opportunities across the county, along with advice and guidance on a whole range of issues affecting young people.

We'd like to know your views on whether there should continue to be a separate website providing this kind of service. Please take a minute to complete our online survey here and tell us what you think. The survey is open to everyone, whether you are a professional or volunteer working with or supporting young people, a careers advisor or parent/carer, and of course, we'd especially like to know what young people themselves think. Please take part in the survey and encourage any young people you know or work with to also take part. The survey is open until the end of March. [Website survey](#)

For more information please contact Robert Moore on Robert.moore@eastsussex 01323 463709

Data on learner destinations

Jessica Stubbings

Each year we publish information on the intended destinations, September Guarantee offers and final destinations of Year 11 leavers (known as the Annual Activity Survey). In 2013 95% of Year 11 leavers went onto education or training, of which 75% went onto a college, 16% stayed on at a school sixth form and 1% onto an apprenticeship. A summary report showing the destinations by type for each school and the overall totals for East Sussex is available to view on czone: <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/rpa/post-16learning/Pages/destinations.aspx>

We continue to meet our targets for participation with 95% of 16 years old and 85% of 17 years old participating. Don't forget that the monthly 'Raising the Participation Age' dashboard can be viewed on czone: [https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/rpa/post-](https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/rpa/post-16learning/Pages/destinations.aspx)

16learning/Pages/neet.aspx

Date for your diary!

July 9th 2 - 4.30pm (venue tbc) – Improving Outcomes and Participation at Key Stage 5: dissemination event to share good practice from the range of projects taking place this year.

Further Information

Further information on Increasing Participation and related documents can be found at:

Czone: <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/rpa/Pages/main.aspx>

Raising the Participation Age Toolkit on the East Sussex Learning Platform
<http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=1148190>

Department for Education: <http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/rpa>

Department for Education RPA trials:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/rpa/a0068744/raising-the-participation-age-rpa-trials>

Team contact: ESCC Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service T. 01323 463030