

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee 27th November 2017

Report of the Head of Participation – Chris Millis

Matter for information

Wards Affected: All

Skills and Training Update

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the progress of Skills and Training in Neath Port Talbot.

Executive Summary

Skills and Training delivers Welsh Government funded specialist programmes of learning and training offering Work-Based Learning opportunities and bespoke commercial training to meet the needs of local residents, employers and their employees.

Skills & Training has secured continued funding in partnership with SAW from WG to March 2019.

Skills & Training have been a Prince's Trust franchise holder since 1990. To date 163 Team Programmes have been delivered, supporting more than 2160 participants aged 16-25 to develop the self-confidence, employability skills and qualifications to reach their potential.

Delivery/ engagement on courses has increased from 950 individuals reported in January 2017 to 1,500 to date.

Background

Skills and Training delivers Welsh Government funded specialist programmes of learning and training offering Work-Based Learning opportunities and bespoke commercial training to meet the needs of local residents, employers and their employees.

Skills and Training are founding members of, and work in partnership with a diverse range of outstanding and like-minded providers known as Skills Academy Wales (SAW). SAW was established as the first Work-Based Learning Consortium of its kind in Wales in October 2009 and has been operating as a single contract with the Welsh Government since August 2010, led by NPTC Group, offering provision for the delivery of Work-Based Learning programmes throughout North, Mid and South Wales.

Partner organisations for Skills Academy Wales are: Pathways Training; Learn-kit Ltd; Gwendraeth Valley Community Enterprise Ltd (Jobforce Wales); Llanelli Rural Council; ACO Training Ltd; NPT County Borough Council (Skills & Training); Swansea ITeC Ltd and Coleg y Cymoedd.

In 2016 Skills Academy Wales was the Highest Performing Apprenticeship provider in Wales.

Welsh Government specialist 'employability' programmes are designed to engage people, address learning barriers and offer basic qualifications and work experience. The programmes cater for different client groups both under and over the age of 18, who are not in full-time education or employment (NEET).

Skills & Training has secured continued funding in partnership with SAW from WG to March 2019.

Skills & Training deliver a variety of WG funded courses for Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Traineeship Engagement, (such as the Prince's Trust Team Programme). In addition, Work Tasters are available in most occupational areas for Traineeship Engagement Learners. Skills & Training also delivers specialised Occupational Areas for Level 1, 2 & 3.

Skills & Training is a non-statutory service delivering a range of work tasters, learning programmes, qualifications and employment opportunity programmes for people from the age of 14 - 65. Current delivery services are across the Neath Port Talbot County Borough,

Swansea Bay and Bridgend regions, the organisation engages with approximately 250-300 learners and job seekers at any one time.

Staffing levels have reduced by half in the last three years; the organisation currently has 21 posts, 7 of which are part-time.

Community Benefits

Skills & Training have been a Prince's Trust franchise holder since 1990. To date 163 Team Programmes have been delivered, supporting more than 2160 participants aged 16-25 to develop the self-confidence, employability skills and qualifications to reach their potential.

Skills & Training/Tir Morfa have been working on a project with Keep Wales Tidy, NPTCBC'S Tidy Towns and Rhos Afan school children's 'eco group' to develop a project with practical workshops open to all partners and the public to attend, delivered by the local experts. The Tir Morfa Community Garden has an open air class room area, poly tunnel, plants to attract wildlife. In July 2017 Skills & Training donated the first produce to the local foodbank and have since made a further donation.

This community/environmental project activity is being developed to provide learners with excellent opportunities to engage with and make a difference to their community, as well as supporting disadvantaged groups in the local community. Plots have been shared with other local groups e.g. YMCA, ACL (offering gardening courses to local residents), Bspoked (a project evolved from a conventional Social Services day centre for people with learning disabilities). Learners have had the opportunity to undertake healthy eating sessions, cooking and eating the produce they have grown and have also taken home produce to their families to cook. This project won the 'Community Impact Award' for Wales in November 2017 at the National Princes Trust Celebrate Success Awards, and has been put forward to represent Wales in the UK Awards.

Increased Pre 16 Delivery options/engagement.

A new partnership has been developed with Ysgol Bae Baglan. Skills & Training started working with 28 pupils (3 groups) to complete a two year City & Guilds Level 2 Hairdressing Qualification. The success of this course has resulted in an agreement to increase the delivery to 6 groups, a further 24 pupils started in September 2017. In addition to this provision has been increased to include four further schools to deliver a

City & Guilds Level one qualification in Hairdressing where the young person also attends a placement with a local employer.

Skills & Training have also devised a 12 week bespoke motivational course for Ysgol Bae Baglan, to support the pupils and the school by increasing confidence, motivation, raising self-esteem, and developing their communication and team building skills. The success of this course has resulted in a further four schools requesting the same course.

Bespoke land based courses have also been developed. Delivered over 28 weeks, the course includes training to achieve; CSCS cards, Manual Handling, IOSH Working Safely, The Safe use of Strimmer's, The Safe use of Petrol Blowers and The Safe Use of Mowers.

There are two Volunteer groups currently being run:

1. Working in Afan Forest Park in conjunction with Job Centre Plus, approximately 40 volunteers attend throughout the year to gain work experience and qualifications (to date all volunteers have been male, aged between 18 and 60).
2. Working in Afan Forest Park in partnership with Cognation to help maintain cycle paths. (15 volunteers, mixed group of males and females aged between 25 and 65).

Furthermore 16 charitable fund raising events have taken place during 2017 to date to support disadvantaged groups in the local community.

13 Community/environmental project activities have been completed for learners to engage with and make a difference to their communities.

100% of learners were screened using the Wales Essential Skills Toolkit (WEST).

Staff delivering courses received CPD for the achievement of the 'Certificate in Essential Skills Practitioners' Course (Level 2 and/ or 3).

Information Security processes have been devised and implemented in preparation for a WG audit to achieve compliancy by 2018.

Skills & Training are preparing to introduce and implement 'born digital' systems for sign up and delivery of Work Based Learning Programmes May 2018.

Delivery/ engagement on courses has increased from 950 individuals reported in January 2017 to 1,500 to date.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts associated with the report.

Equality Impact Assessment

Having considered the Council's screening assessment guidance produced to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 it has been determined that the proposal within this report does not require an equalities impact assessment.

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

There is no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

There is no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

The report is for information purposes only.

Implementation of Decision

Not applicable.

Appendices

N/A

Officer Contact

Chris Millis Head of Participation, Telephone 01639 763226 e-mail
c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk

Mrs Angeline Spooner-Cleverly, Participation Co-ordinator, 01639
686044 – a.spooner-cleverly@npt.gov.uk