

Hub News – September 2024

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

Welcome to our latest newsletter, and we're delighted to introduce our new format. In this issue, we're pleased to bring you an update on our monthly Job Fairs, our recent community engagements, as well as share details about the successful SPF Programmes we're running. We hope you find it engaging and informative.

If there's any way we can support you and your business, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

MONTHLY JOB FAIRS

The Hub, in partnership with DWP, holds monthly Job Fairs (excluding December) which alternate between St George's Hotel in Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Community Hwb.

The events run between 11am and 1pm and usually attract 60-70 job seekers. They're free for employers to attend and are the ideal way to connect with people looking for a variety of work, as well as being a great opportunity to network with other businesses.

If you would like to attend one of our future events, please send us an email to employers@conwy.gov.uk and we'll get in touch.

NORTH WALES DISABILITY ROADSHOW

STAND North Wales CIC, in partnership with Conwy Employment Hub and Working Denbighshire, is hosting its third annual North Wales Disability Roadshow on Wednesday 30 October at Venue Cymru.

The day's focus is "A more inclusive workplace for a better future", and it starts at 9am with an Employers' Conference consisting of networking and breakfast, key speakers talking about employment without barriers and also workshops.

After lunch, there's a Job Fair for employers to meet local people with additional needs or disabilities who are keen to find suitable work.

AN ACE PROGRAMME!

The ACE Programme that Crest is running in partnership with the Hub is proving to be an outstanding success for all the participants taking part.

The programme is a 12-week paid placement at Crest across a range of sectors including retail, driving and refurbishment. As well as gaining invaluable work experience, the participants also receive 1:1 and group employability and job searching support, and training.

16 participants took part in June's programme, and a cohort of 16 have recently started the September programme.

SPF FUNDED PROGRAMMES

Young People's Employability Project

This project focuses on helping and supporting 16-19 year olds to develop lifelong skills while providing a clear path to employment with the following results to date:

- 7 have been on the Introduction to Construction course
- 11 have been on the Pathway into Waterskills course
- 4 have attended Moving Forward

- 10 attended the Barista Taster session
- 21 have sat their CSCS test
- 11 have been on Tractor Training
- 24 students at Penrhos Avenue have attended a range of employability sessions

Training Courses and Pathways

We have a wide range of training courses and pathways which offer a blend of training on soft skills and employability, certificated sector-based qualifications and hands-on work experience.

To date 190 Conwy residents have successfully completed a course since 1 April, which have included:

- Start Up Club for new businesses
- Waterskills course
- SIA Door Supervisor course
- CCTV course
- Teaching Assistant
- Construction

Confidently You

This programme focuses on reducing social isolation, building resilience and increasing confidence/self-esteem, while developing soft practical, financial, digital and employability skills.

Currently there are 43 participants on the programme who have to date attended 26 activity sessions including:

- Stitch Up - altering/repairing and creating new items from clothing
- learning Nordic Walking
- Water Safety
- use of e-bikes
- Confidence and Wellbeing Sessions
- Created a wall hanging with their thoughts and feelings

Homeless Employment Mentor

We now have a dedicated Homeless Employment Mentor who is embedded within the Homeless Prevention Team and is supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Targeted Employability Numeracy Support (TENS)

TENS provides person centred essential numeracy skills support. The Hub has also developed a collaborative partnership with HMP Berwyn to help recently released prisoners with numeracy support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Hub has a busy schedule of regular community drop-in sessions at key locations around the county, including Job Centres, Libraries and community centres.

The schedule is supplemented with ad hoc events which provide an additional opportunity to engage with our defined target audience. These have included Colwyn Bay Pride and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's Bite Sized Health events, as well as events run by partner organisations, for example Cartrefi Conwy's Family Fun Day at Peulwys.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

We're delighted to announce that Jayne Taylor, who has been a Hub mentor since January, has been appointed Employer Engagement Officer.

Jayne has over 25 years experience in the recruitment sector and her proven track record of filling employers' vacancies with suitable candidates will stand her in good stead in this new role.

Commenting on her appointment Jayne said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a mentor as it was a very rewarding role, but this new position will enable me to further help our participants by using my excellent employer contacts and recruitment expertise to help find them meaningful employment.

Jayne is working in partnership with Alice Kirwan, also an Employer Engagement Officer so look out for them both at our future monthly job fairs.

AND OUR NEW TRIAGE OFFICER

We're also pleased to announce that Elen Jones has joined the Hub as Triage Officer.

Previously working at Llanrwst Family Centre, Elen is the first point of contact for participants signing up to our programmes. Her responsibilities include ensuring that participants meet the strict eligibility criteria and undertaking an initial assessment of their needs before enrolling them and appointing their personal mentor who will work with and support them to achieve their goals.

Elen is very familiar with all the projects and initiatives that support unemployed adults and young people in Conwy, so if a participant doesn't meet the eligibility criteria for our programmes she is able to refer them on to other eligible projects.

This is a key networking role so Elen will be representing the Hub at events across the county.

LABOUR'S VISION FOR EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES

The Institute of Employability Professionals (IEP) recently produced an article on the significant opportunity the Labour Party's return to power could make on transforming the UK's approach to employability services and welfare policy. Central to Labour's vision is creating an inclusive, equitable society where support is available to all who need it.

The full article can be accessed at

<https://www.fenews.co.uk/exclusive/how-will-labour-transform-our-employability-services/>

WORKWELL CONWY

Being in the right job can help improve general wellbeing and support recovery from mental health difficulties; WorkWell Conwy offers specialist support to help people with mental health needs find suitable employment.

The programme can offer 1-1 support with job-search, including CV writing and interview skills; Employment counselling to help overcome mental health barriers to work; Employability training workshops and more.

If you know someone who may benefit from this support encourage them to get in touch with RCS on workwell@rcs-wales.co.uk, 01745 336442 or if you'd like more information about the programme, please visit

<https://rcs-wales.co.uk/en/supporting-you-into-work/>