



ITCA Training Apprentices

Employability Partnership Aberdeenshire

Autumn Issue

LEVELS OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON THE RISE

IN THIS ISSUE

Significant Progression in Jobs Market

by Gabrielle Beattie, Employer Engagement Coordinator

Well it looks like summer has been and gone and autumn has truly arrived! No time to prepare to hibernate though – too busy!

The past few months have been full with highs and lows for all of us, with the referendum debate an unavoidable daily occurrence throughout September! September also saw some considerable press coverage focusing on the latest employment figures. The numbers of those in employment has been increasing each quarter, with claimant numbers falling by 3.7% between July and August 14. You'll see from the graph below that employment is on the way up in a number of different countries.

Our partners have also seen a substantial shift in the wants and needs of clients coming through the door, with an increase in demand for specific training in the construction and care sectors alongside the very prominent issue of English language training (ESOL) for migrants.

JCP has made Work Trials more accessible for JSA claimants, encouraging employers to take on individuals on a trial basis to see if they have the potential to be a good fit for the company. The use of work trials recently has seen 6 full job offers made and accepted, and many opportunities to discover what working in these industries is really like!

Clearly the landscape of the jobs market is changing and the employability partnership is evolving with it - great news!

As always, this newsletter exists as a snapshot of the challenges, successes and ongoing work throughout the Partnership, please continue to send me your updates throughout the year.



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The biggest risers

	Hungary	UK	Malta	Ireland	Portugal
2013 Q3	0.6%	1.3%	3.5%	3.2%	-2.3%
2013 Q4	1	1.4	4.5	3.2	0.6
2014 Q1	3.2	2.5	3.2	2.3	1.4
2014 Q2	3.1	2.7	2.6	1.7	1.6

Source: Eurostat

ITCA Training

by Donna Ross, senior PR account manager,
Frasermedia Ltd

BA North-east apprentice training center has welcomed its latest intake of learners on a range of work-focused courses.

Nine new apprentices (photographed on page 1) have enrolled with ITCA Training, which is based at Dyce's Kirkhill Industrial Estate, on a 20-week E2A (Entry to Apprenticeship) course, with the hope of securing employment in the highly competitive energy sector.

ITCA, which was established in 1989, is one of the largest engineering apprenticeship-training firms in Scotland, and provides training for young employees in sectors including, welding, fabrication, mechanical engineering, business administration and logistics.

The E2A training initiative, which was launched in June 2013, offers the first step to an apprenticeship programme, and is funded by the national skills body, SDS (Skills Development Scotland) employability fund.

The youngsters are divided into two groups, with five studying engineering and the remaining four focusing on welding.

The course which lasts for 20 weeks, involves a mixture of classroom based studies and practical work. Learners will also go on

placements at local companies during the course.

Managing Director of ITCA, June Jones, said: "The E2A course is a fantastic opportunity for these highly motivated young people to earn a place in the booming energy sector with a good knowledge of the practical skills and workshop safety procedures required.

"With the workshop experience and teaching from industry experts that they will receive, these learners will go on to become extremely attractive to the energy industry, which, as well all know, is struggling to fill a widening skills gap."

The specialist training firm has an extensive client base around Aberdeenshire, including a number of major energy and supply companies.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like more information please contact June Jones, ITCA Training Tel (01224) 772709 or June.jones@itca-training.com.

To find out more about ITCA visit www.itca-training.com



KFC Comes to Peterhead!

By John Reid, Peterhead Job Centre Plus

KFC are due to open their new store in Peterhead at the start of October. KFC have been advertising for staff over the past few months through the Jobcentre in Peterhead and have also used Universal Jobmatch to advertise positions. Interviews were carried out using the free facilities at the Jobcentre and part of the KFC induction training was also carried out in the Jobcentre.

Around 25 full and part time positions were created.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like more information please contact John Reid on 01779 428489 or by email on JOHN.REID@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

Aberdeen Foyer

By Anne Kain, Operations Manager

Aberdeen Foyer has been involved in the Community Work Placement Programme with Learn Direct and DWP. This programme is to help people who have returned from the Work Programme and who's primary barrier is a lack of recent work experience or who need to gain confidence and motivation.

We had our first referral for the programme in Elgin on the 7th of July, this person had been unemployed for over 11 years, she worked with us for only 8 weeks and was able to secure a job, and since that point she has already been offered a better paid job and has also turned down two others! She admitted that she would still be unemployed if she had not joined the programme and felt it was the confidence she gained from the placement as well as the support she received from the Foyer that made the difference.

We have also helped someone in Fraserburgh who was constantly re offending out of boredom and had been in and out of jail over the last few years as a result, never lasting more than a few weeks before he would end up back in custody, since joining the programme at the end of July he has not re offended and admits its been the best thing for him in years. All the people we have had referred are on work placements, such as Library Assistant, Landscape Operative, Warehouse Assistant, Computer Repairs Assistant and Gardener.

All the positions have a community benefit and all the people who have been placed have given positive feedback. We are always looking for new opportunities to place people in so if anyone can offer a work placement please just get in touch, the placement is for up to 30 hours a week and can last up to 26 weeks but we hope to help people move into employment much sooner but it has been proven to us the difference it makes having the right kind of placement available.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Anne Kain on 01779 473520 or annek@aberdeenfoyer.com.

Positive Futures with WEA

By Angus Williamson, Education Development Manager

WEA are running a Stage 2 course for 16 – 24 year olds scheduled for an October 13th start.

We have places available for 2 young people 16-17 and four young people 18 – 24 from Aberdeenshire on this course which will be held in Aberdeen City.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like more information please contact Angus Williamson on 01224 642725 or [Angus Williamson](mailto:Angus.Williamson@weascotland.org.uk) <A.Williamson@weascotland.org.uk>

Banff Academy Employability Class

By Kate James, Senior Community Learning Worker

A number of young people who are entering 5th year have been identified by Guidance staff as requiring extra support to make the transition to post-school life. Areas such as budgeting, cooking, work skills and health are delivered by Community Learning Staff, in partnership with SDS, Employment Development Officers and Academy Guidance Staff. The Time-tabled class has the following Outcomes:

- Young people will feel more supported in their transition from school into adulthood
- All young people will be given the opportunity to accredit their work
- Young people will feel more confident in their ability to make the transition
- Young people will be supported to make positive choices with regard to life

In June 2014, the first class completed their course, each receiving a Bronze Youth Achievement Award. Another 14 participants this year are involved in a number of activities including the SQA course "Transitions in Action". At the moment, they are developing practical and social skills through building a boat with a group of Community Volunteers in Portsoy.



Employability Partnership & Financial Inclusion Event

5th November 2014
Inverurie Town Hall
9.30am - 15.30pm

The Aberdeenshire Employability and Financial Inclusion Partnerships will be holding a Partner Event and would like to invite all organisations along who work with our local communities, providing support across a range of issues including;

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Employability Skills
- Support for Young People
- Debt and Money Management
- Education & Training
- Information & Advice Services
- Volunteering and Work Experience



The event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the key elements within the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities agenda. With this, the event will raise awareness of the challenges faced by our communities, where the gaps in provision are and how we can work together to provide additional opportunities. Alongside information stands and workshops this event will also offer an excellent opportunity to network with other local organisations. Please return booking forms (attached) by email to Mhairi.greig@aberdeenshire.gov.uk by the **22nd October 2014**.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like more information please contact Gabrielle Beattie on 01779 428404 or by email on gabrielle.tew@dpw.gsi.gov.uk. Or alternatively please contact Mhairi Greig on 01779 483 216 or Mhairi.Greig@aberdeenshire.gsx.gov.uk



Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership



Programme of the day

09:30 Arrival – Registration & Tea/Coffee
 10:00 Welcome and setting the scene
 10:10 Employability Guest speaker
 10:30 Financial Inclusion Guest Speaker
 10:50 Introduction to workshops
 11:00 Workshop Session 1

- My World of Work
- Advice & Information Services
- Fuel Poverty
- Child Poverty
- Working Towards a Living Wage
- Beyond the Work Programme
- The Hidden Workforce

 12:30 Lunch and Market Stall of Project Information
 13:15 Workshop Session 2 (Repeat of 1)
 14:40 Agree priorities - Feedback from the workshops which will lead to an agreed way forward
 15:00 Closing remarks
 15:30 Finish



Banff Computer Drop-In

By Kate James, Senior Community Learning Worker

Banff Employability Hub (a strategic local partnership including CLD, SDS, Job Centre Plus, Working for Families, Employment Development and Volunteer Centre) identified a need in the Banff Area for clients to access the internet and learn basic computer skills. CLD have set up a 'computer drop-in' at Bridge Street Community Centre. These sessions are linked to "Employability Workshops" delivered in Banff by SDS. Volunteers are employed to support participants with tasks such as setting up an email address, doing internet job-searching, finding out about welfare issues and to register and use Universal Job Match. This last quarter has seen 18 people regularly dropping in, and 41% of those have achieved their goals.



NEED TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like more information please contact Kate James, Senior Community Learning Worker by telephone on 01261 812450 or email [Kate James](mailto:Kate.James@aberdeenshire.gcsx.gov.uk) <Kate.James@aberdeenshire.gcsx.gov.uk>

Employability Partnership Aberdeenshire

“...good partnerships involve trust and the sharing of risks and rewards, both of which make innovation more likely.”

Audit Commission, A Fruitful Partnership, effective partnership working. 1998

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