

Skills & Enterprise Partnership

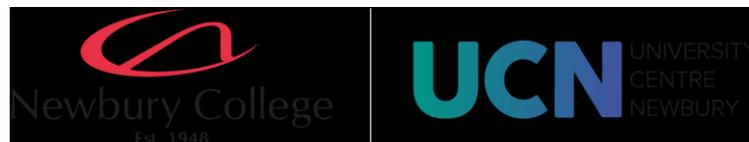
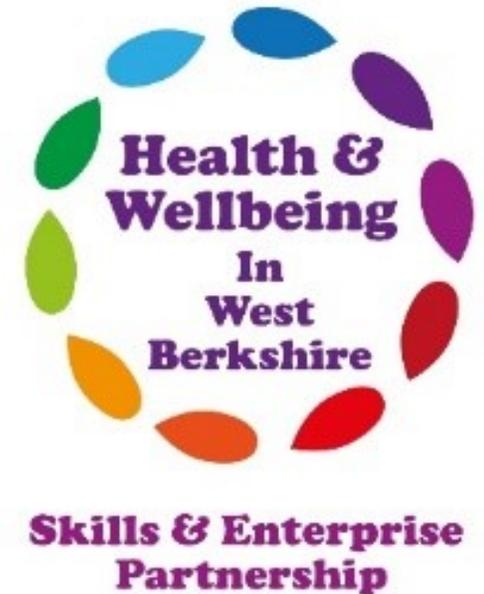
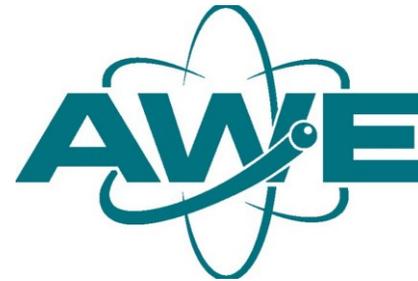
9th December 2021

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**Skills & Enterprise
Partnership**

SEP – A Diverse Partnership

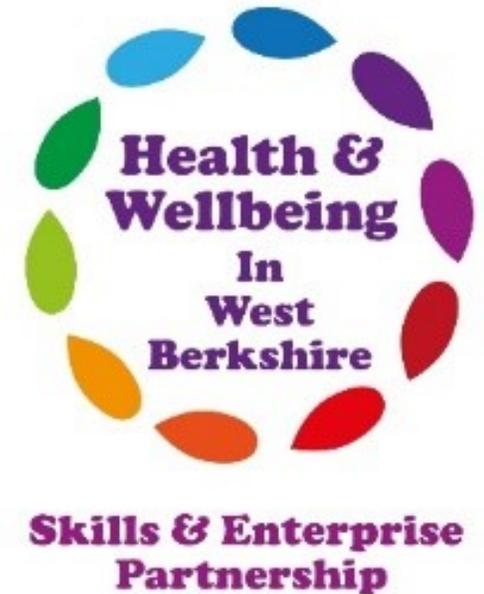


SEP – Purpose & Aims

The purpose of the Skills & Enterprise Partnership (SEP) is to act as the delivery arm of the Health and Wellbeing Board and support the delivery of the Strategy

The aims of the SEP are to:

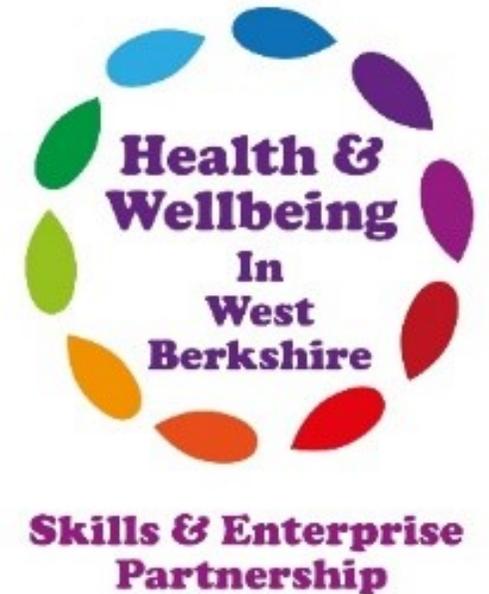
- Promote economic development by ensuring the widest possible pool of talent for local employers
- Support people from groups who are under-represented in employment to acquire skills and overcome barriers in order to enter, or re-enter, employment
- Support employers in providing and sustaining employment for people in under-represented groups in order to increase diversity



SEP – Target Groups

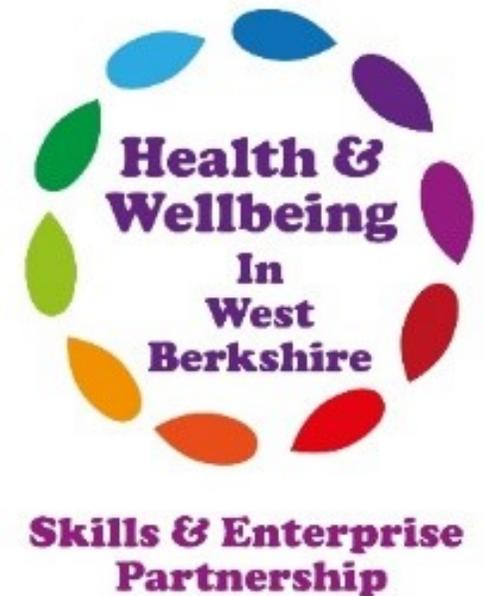
Under-represented groups include:

- People with physical disabilities
- People with mental health problems
- People with learning disabilities
- People with long-term health conditions
- Young people



SEP – Key Projects 2019/21

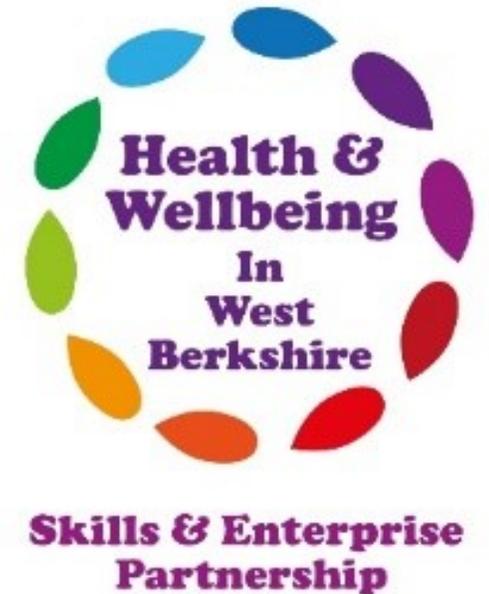
1. Identification of the main groups in West Berkshire who are under-represented in employment, in order to confirm the priorities of planned projects
2. Delivery of a public awareness campaign to promote the sustained employment of people from under-represented groups
3. Development of the second phase of the ‘Working for a Healthier Tomorrow’ initiative
4. Expansion of the ‘Delivering Life Skills’ programme
5. Enhanced delivery of a Work & Careers Fair, including participation by local schools and supporting the work on employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities



SEP – Key Projects 2019/21

1. Identification of the main groups in West Berkshire who are under-represented in employment, in order to confirm the priorities of planned projects

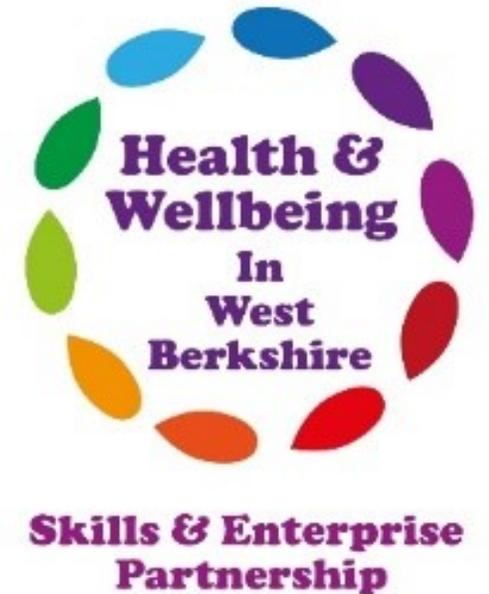
Work completed by Catherine Greaves (Workplace Health Officer & Project Officer West Berkshire Wellbeing). Discussed and agreed by the Skills & Enterprise Partnership



SEP – Key Projects 2019/21

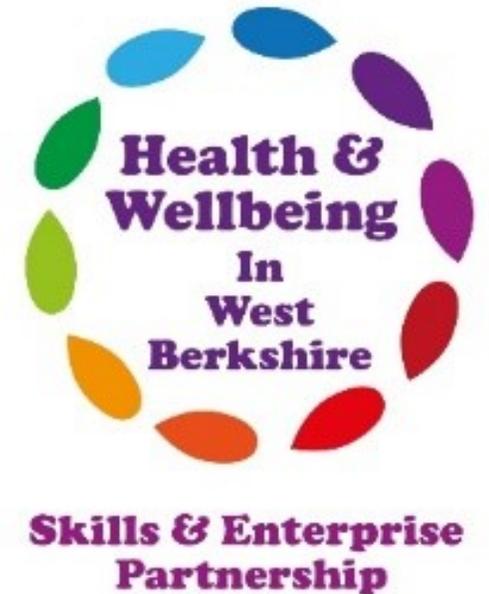
2. Delivery of a public awareness campaign to promote the sustained employment of people from under-represented groups

Delayed by pandemic. SEP will seek to work with the group 'Employment is everyone's business' (Mark Browne and Lee Hunt) to devise campaign. No further progress.



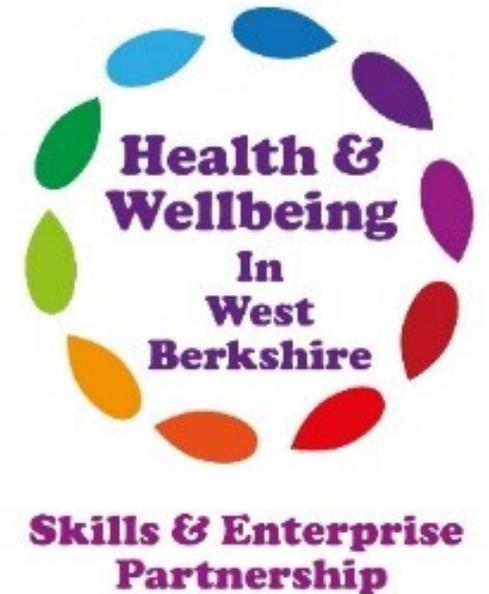
3. Development of the second phase of the ‘Working for a Healthier Tomorrow’ initiative

Delayed by pandemic. Will be the remit of the new post holder for Workplace Health who will join the SEP and lead on this action. Focus is likely to be on mental health in the workplace.



4. Expansion of the ‘Delivering Life Skills’ programme

The Education Business Partnership (EBP) have now delivered six workshops to local young people in schools, focussing on building self-esteem, confidence, and social & communication skills. The workshops were evaluated very positively, with 96% of students saying that they found the activities valuable and 100% of their teachers confirming that they would like their students to participate in future.



5. Enhanced delivery of a Work & Careers Fair, including participation by local schools and supporting the work on employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities

The University & Careers Fair was delivered as a partnership by the EBP, Newbury College and Laura Farris MP. As a result of continuing Covid restrictions, the first day of the event was delivered through a series of virtual workshops with 1,178 young people in local schools taking part. The second day included a live Q&A panel, held at St Bart's Sixth Form and made available online to the other secondary schools. The panellists were hosted by Laura Farris and included participants from a range of local businesses, including Vodafone, Xtrac, Get Berks Active and AWE. A total of 100 students took part on-site, with many other young people viewing the video online.



SEP – Proposed Future Direction

At the meeting on 4th November the SEP discussed a proposal to divide its activity into two distinct groups:

First, a group will continue to focus on the current core aims of the SEP. This group will continue to report to the Health & Wellbeing Board, though is likely to choose a new name to better represent its purpose. A new action plan is now being developed for the core work on skills and employment for people in vulnerable groups.

A second group is also proposed which will focus on wider economic development, and the skills required to meet the needs of the local economy. Katherine Makant (WBC Economy Manager) agreed to develop a proposal to establish this group, which will seek to include strong representation from local businesses and seek a different reporting line within WBC.



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