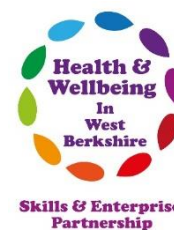


Skills and Enterprise Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – 11th April 2024



Current Activity

The SEP hasn't met since the last update provided to the HWBB in January. However, the update on planned actions is as follows:

	Planned Actions	Progress at April 2024
2.8.4	Extension of the Developing Life Skills' programme	The H&WB approved funding for this programme in 2022/23, which was delivered in secondary schools by the EBP. All sessions were completed by July 23, with a significant increase to 250 participants. The further funding bid for 2023/24 was discussed at the HWB Board, however there are currently no identified funds to support these activities in 23/24. Greenham Trust are providing continuing funding for part of the programme, but, at present, the offer to Schools has been reduced.
2.8.2	Enhanced delivery of a Work and Careers Fair – including participation by local schools and supporting the work on employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities	As previously reported, the 2023/24 annual Work & Careers Fair (the 'Destinations Expo') was successfully delivered on 12th October 2023 at Newbury College, with 1,400 young people from local secondary schools attending, and around 60 employers and other organisations exhibiting. Planning for the 24/25 Destinations Expo is now underway for 10 th October 2024, with ambitious plans to increase attendance significantly and to grow the number of employers and education providers exhibiting. Recruitment of employers for the event is progressing well.
1.4.6	Green skills and jobs – seeking funding opportunities to extend the successful project, currently delivered in other areas of Berkshire, to develop skills and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Green economy (Groundwork)."	Groundwork has submitted a bid for Reading and an EOI in West Berks and are awaiting outcomes, which should be confirmed by the end of March 24.

1.4.7	Supported Internships – development of local provision of supported internships to enhance the employment routes for people with disabilities (Newbury College).	The College have been working with WBC and 'Ways into Work' in developing two approaches: first, through the NHS 'Route to Recruit' strategy (led by Ways into Work) and identifies placements at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. There are two learners identified for this route from September 24. Second, is placement in local businesses which links to WBC's target for 12 placements, with seven high needs learners currently identified, starting from September onwards.
1.4.8	Employability sessions – extension of the support provided by DWP to local schools and colleges to enhance the understanding of employment options for young people. Particularly focussed on under-represented groups and on the wide range of routes to skills and future employment (DWP)	The DWP have been working with schools around Berkshire to deliver Employability Skills and have had some good feedback from those schools. Further details of West Berkshire activity to follow in the next quarter.

Future Actions

The SEP is continuing to work on the agreed actions outlined above.