
Youth Unemployment: Providing Young People with Skills, Confidence and Work Experience

Details: Wednesday 18th September 2013, The Royal Society of Medicine - London, 08:00am - 03:15pm.

Overview

Tackling youth unemployment is a top priority for the government. In May 2013, statistics released by Parliament indicated that in the first quarter of 2013, there were 958,000 unemployed young people aged 16-24 in the UK.

In order to take steps towards tackling youth unemployment, the £1 billion Youth Contract was announced in April 2012, which aimed to provide nearly half a million new opportunities for 18-24 year olds. In addition to this, in February 2013 the government announced £126 million investment to tackle the number of 16-17 year olds not in employment, education or training.

The government is committed to improving the quality of apprenticeships and vocational training in the UK with the aim of bringing down youth employment levels. The November 2012 *Richard Review* of apprenticeships recognised the important role that apprenticeships play in equipping young people with the skills they need to achieve sustainable employment. Additionally, the April 2013 *Skills Strategy: Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills* focuses on incorporating the changing needs of employers in vocational and technical training. This was followed by a framework for the delivery of traineeships, published in May 2013, which will start in August 2013.

Objectives

By attending this youth unemployment forum delegates will hear from the government on the latest policies and developments to reduce youth unemployment. Delegates will also hear from experts and examine best practice case studies on successfully preparing young people for employment, through providing effective careers guidance, through vocational training and support or by engaging in quality work-based learning.

Audience

Delegates attending will include headteachers, heads of vocational education, labour market directors, welfare managers, heads of youth engagement, heads of youth services, training and employment managers, heads of apprenticeships and will be drawn from schools, colleges, local authorities, central government, and the voluntary and private sector.

Contributor



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Agenda

- 09:00** - Coffee and Registration
- 09:55** - Chair's Welcome and Address
- 10:00** - Morning Keynote: The Role of Traineeships in Delivering Sustainable Employment
- 10:20** - Case Study: Developing Innovative Methods to Reduce Youth Unemployment
- 10:40** - Questions and Answers Session
- 11:00** - Coffee and Networking
- 11:20** - Case Study: Further Education - Effectively Preparing Young People for Employment
- 11:40** - Integrating Services To Ensure All Young People Gain Sustainable Employment
- 12:00** - Reducing Unemployment Through the Work Programme: The Role of the Housing Sector
- 12:20** - The Importance of Good Quality Assessing When Delivering Apprenticeships
- 12:40** - Questions and Answers Session
- 13:00** - Lunch and Networking
- 14:00** - Afternoon Keynote: Providing Exceptional Careers Support and Guidance During and After Education
- 14:20** - Equipping Teachers and Trainers with the Skills to Maximise Employment Opportunities for Young People
- 14:40** - Questions and Answers Session
- 15:00** - Coffee and Networking
- 15:20** - Case Study: Successfully Developing and Delivering the Traineeship Model
- 15:40** - Developing a Partnership Approach to Increase Youth Engagement and Employment
- 16:00** - Questions and Answers Session
- 16:15** - Chairs Summary and Close

Speakers

Anton Hodge

Assistant Director, Strategic Resources, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council

After graduating from Edinburgh University with an MA in Latin and Ancient History, Anton Hodge trained as an accountant with Cambridgeshire County Council and subsequently worked with Cumbria County Council before moving to North Yorkshire in 2010. For most of that time, Anton has been working with schools, education and children's services finance although recently his responsibilities at North Yorkshire have expanded to encompass the council's property and health and safety portfolios. He is also leading a review of the County's traded services with schools.

Anton has also been seconded to the DfES as a School Funding Co-ordinator (2003-4) and was a member of the LSC Advisory Group looking at SEN funding.

Outside of work, Anton has written two travel/history books and was also Chairman of Gretna FC (2008), a new club he held to set up after the demise of the former Scottish Premier League side from the town.

Councillor Catherine West

Leader of Islington Council, Labour Member for Tollington Ward, Islington Council

Catherine was elected Leader of Islington Council in May 2010 and is also Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee, Chair of Central London Forward and a member of the LGA Finance Panel. In February 2013, she was named 'Leader of the Year' in the LGiU CCLA Councillor Achievement Awards.

Catherine has represented the Tollington Ward in Islington North since 2002 and has held the position of Leader of the Labour Group since 2004, steering the group from 11 to 35 councillors at the 2010 Local Elections.

As Leader, Catherine's priorities include improving local housing provision, promoting safer inner city communities, reducing inequality and tackling child poverty.

Catherine has been involved with a number of local campaigns, helping disadvantaged and under-represented groups from across the borough and leading the budget proposals to implement Islington's policy of free school meals for all nursery and primary school children and a council tax discount for pensioners.

Under her leadership the Islington Fairness Commission was launched, chaired by Professor Richard Wilkinson, to look at ways of tackling poverty and inequality to make Islington a fairer place. Its 19 recommendations have been formally adopted by Islington Council www.islington.gov.uk/fairness and in 2012 Islington became one of the first two local authorities in the country to be formally accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as a Living Wage employer.

Catherine is active in a number of local community groups, helping out in a voluntary capacity and in her role as a councillor. Before becoming Leader she was the Chair of the Mitford under Fives children's centre, a trustee of the Hornsey Road Sure Start Children's Centre and a governor at Duncombe Primary School in Sussex Way, Islington.

Catherine is a mother of two and an Archway resident. She speaks five languages and holds a degree in Social Science and Languages and a Masters Degree in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Kath Boullen

Chief Executive, St Helens Chamber

Kath Boullen is Chief Executive of St Helens Chamber.

St Helens Chamber provides services to improve the economic prosperity of businesses and people in the area. Activities include representing 1,100 Member companies, Business Support, Training, Employment and supporting new business starts. The Chamber has 120 staff and an annual turnover of £6m.

Kath is a member of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Monitoring Committee for the North West European Programme and the Liverpool City Region Employment & Skills Board, and is a Governor of Carmel College.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Kath worked for Government Departments at area, regional and Head Office level on a range of training and enterprise initiatives. She has also worked for a Regional Tourist Board and a printing company.

St Helens Chamber has won six national British Chambers of Commerce Awards over the last five years, including 'Best Campaign' in 2013 for our work in reducing youth unemployment, and has the highest Membership rate in the country.

Paul Eeles

Chief Executive, ABC Awards

Paul Eeles is the Chief Executive of the EMFEC and ABC Awards Group. EMFEC is the membership body for colleges in the East Midlands and ABC Awards is a leading, national Awarding Organisation which is part of the EMFEC Group. EMFEC also provides the AoC East Midlands regional directorate services to AoC ensuring that the voice of the East Midlands Colleges is heard at regional and national level. Paul has overall strategic responsibility for the Group leading both the Group Senior Leadership & Senior Management Teams.

Paul has over 25 years' experience in the post-16 sector. The first seven years as a lecturer. He has 13 years experience of managing WBL in both a College and with independent providers. Paul spent three years as Group Training Director of a national licensed retail training provider before setting up his own training company. He has been an external verifier for an awarding body and has 12 years experience as an associate inspector in the FE sector working for Ofsted, ALI and the Training Standards Council.

Prior to joining EMFEC and ABC Awards, Paul was Director of Sector Reforms and 14-19 at the Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) where he had been part of the senior management team since February 2005. At AELP Paul led nationally on policy reform related to 14-19, Apprenticeships, Machinery of Government Changes, Sector Skills Councils, Quality Improvement, Inspection, Qualification Reform and Workforce Reform. Paul worked closely with officials from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and stakeholder organisations to represent the interests of his members sitting on many government and stakeholder bodies advisory, stakeholder and management groups.

Paul's first degree is a business management degree specialising in Hotel & Catering Management jointly from The University of Central England & The Birmingham College of Food. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Training Management from the University of Wolverhampton and a

Masters in Personnel & Development from the University of Plymouth. In addition Paul is a Fellow Member of the British Institute of Innkeeping, a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development and an Associate Member of the Institute of Learning.

Paul is married with two teenage sons.