

Assisting Young People into Work Report

March 2015

We know that at the moment there are too many young people out of work, those under 24 are far more likely to be unemployed than any other age group and we tried to find out why this is.

In 2014 the Enterprise and Business Committee of the National Assembly for Wales decided to look at why it is so difficult for young people to get a job or start training.

What you told us

The young people we spoke to said that the biggest problems they faced were lack of confidence, lack of qualifications and lack of training. The other significant problem they faced was the cost and availability of transport, this made it more difficult to find a job whether or not they lived in a rural area or large town.

What employers told us

The biggest problem for employers was young people not being ready to join the workplace. They said that young people needed to come to work on time, show that they were reliable and treat others in the workplace with respect.

Our ideas

Based on what you told us, we have come up with some things which all those who are responsible for trying to prepare people for adult life can do. These are our ideas:

Support for young people

Cheaper travel costs for 16 and 17 year olds under the Youth Concessionary Fare Scheme should be made available to 18 to 24 year olds.

Careers Wales should provide face-to-face advice for every young person who needs it.

The Welsh Government should work with those who provide benefits to stop young people losing their housing benefit if they start work in a job with low pay.

Some young people need more help to start work and keep a job. There should be flexible courses to help these young people to stay in work.

There are many ways in which charities receive money to help young people find work and increase their skills. This money should be spent wisely and given to those who need the most help.

There should be more lead workers to help young people have the support they need to find work.

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Education

Schools should teach 'work-ready' skills in all their subjects, not just in the 'Careers and World of Work Framework'.

The links between employers and schools should be improved.

The Welsh Government should look at the balance between studying in the classroom and work-based learning and see whether it fits with the available job opportunities.

The Welsh Government should look at the way learners apply for courses and make sure that they can choose to follow courses which are not only academic but vocational, practical courses in schools as well as further education colleges.

The Welsh Government should look at the opportunities young people have to choose vocational courses as a result of the changes to the law they introduced in 2009, in the Learning and Skills Measure.

Work experience

Work experience for learners should be made longer and the placements should be properly organised.

Careers Wales should be responsible for making sure work experience placements meet Health and Safety standards and keep a central list of placements.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

More should be done to promote apprenticeships.

Traineeships help young people by giving them the skills and qualifications they need to get a job or go onto higher learning. Not everyone is ready to start a Traineeship at age 16, so there should be more support to help more people get into a Traineeship.

The Welsh Government will be looking at how useful and successful work experience is for young people. They should also look at how careers advice is provided by Careers Wales and they should work more closely with employers to make sure young people know what job opportunities there are. We think this is useful and look forward to seeing the results of these reviews.

What happens next?

Keep an eye on what happens next by watching our Twitter feed and website. The suggestions we made will be debated in the National Assembly for Wales and we expect the Welsh Government to let us know what they will do about our suggestions. We will update you with their answers and you can let us know what you think by tweeting us back.

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