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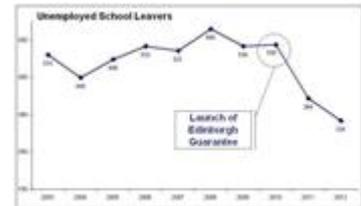
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February 26th, 2013

Edinburgh Guarantee News

A measure of success

Skills Development Scotland recently released comparative statistics for our performance as a local authority for providing Positive Destinations. Some highlights show the difference the Edinburgh Guarantee and your support is making. In 2009/2010 we were 4.5% behind the National Average but this has been narrowed to just 1.6%. We have moved from being the worst performing local authority in Scotland (32nd) to 24th and are now delivering a positive destination to 88.3% of our school leavers from a low of 82.5%. These are the best results the city has had for ten years. Thank you for helping us make this possible.



Financial Services Opportunities

Deloitte and KPMG are currently seeking applications for their school leaver programmes. Both are national programmes with opportunities here in Edinburgh. The Deloitte BrightStart programme and the KPMG open now and details for both opportunities can be accessed through <http://www.directions.org.uk/getting-in/> or you can visit our website www.edinburghguarantee.org.



Career Academies

Staff from Penna, a global HR Services Group, generously gave their time and expertise to deliver a series of workshops to help Career Academy students at six local high schools. The students were supported to think more about "Who am I?" and identify their talents, strengths and achievements. Staff reassured them that even the adults they work with find this hard to do. The workshops were timed to help the young people make applications for their summer internship in July.



Positive Destinations

Activity Agreements

Activity Agreements are designed to engage young people (16-19) who are unemployed and require additional support and skills in order to reach a positive destination. 155 young people in Edinburgh are currently on activity agreements tailored to help develop their skills to enable them to access further training, education or employment opportunities.

One of these is Crystal who was referred for an Activity Agreement in May 2012. With the support of her coach she successfully applied to go on an expedition to India with Raleigh International. She spent last summer raising over £700 for the 9 week trip which included an expedition, a community project and an environmental project. Crystal is now undertaking a work placement at Benmore Outdoor Centre.



Inspiring Young People, Employability Award & Evaluation

In November we mentioned the introduction of a city wide Employability Award. It will demonstrate to local employers that young people have reached a certain standard and have the necessary skills for work. The award will be piloted with the group of 20 young people who started their Inspiring Young People programme in February. The pilot is being delivered in partnership with West Lothian College and as part of the evaluation process we'll be asking you as employers across the city to express what 'Employability' learning would be most valuable to your sector. This will take the form of a simple questionnaire to be sent out in April.



Skills Development Scotland – Ways to Work

Skills Development Scotland hosted a Ways to Work event in their Shandwick Place Centre on Tuesday 5th February. Aimed at recent school leavers and unemployed 16-19 year olds the event held 35 exhibitors which included Employers, Modern Apprentice providers, Edinburgh College, Jobcentre Plus, Get Ready for Work providers and Employability Providers, all of whom were recruiting to opportunities. There was an excellent response with a record number of 123 young people attending, many of whom left the event with interviews arranged which will hopefully convert into a positive destination.



Events, events, events!

Citrus Saturday

Citrus Saturday is an education programme designed to teach young people how to start, own, and operate their own business - a lemonade stand. They will learn how to set goals, develop a business plan, establish a budget, seek investors, provide a customer service, and give back to the community. On Saturday 20th April 50 pupils from five local schools will set up their lemonade stands at the Gyle and Cameron Toll shopping centres as well as at the Zoo, the Castle and the Botanic Gardens. Special thanks to Sainsbury's Cameron Toll, who are donating all the fruit for all venues. Thank you!



Scottish Modern Apprenticeship Week 2013

To mark the launch of Scottish Modern Apprenticeship week the Edinburgh Guarantee will be teaming up with Historic Scotland, Edinburgh College and other partners to support an event in St. Andrews Square. On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st May 2013 there will be a display of traditional building skills carried out by Modern Apprentices within the square, along with the opportunity for people and employers to find out more about the varied types of Modern Apprenticeships available in Scotland. More information to follow, watch this space.



Edinburgh Guarantee Developments

Recruitwork and the Edinburgh Guarantee

During February, the Edinburgh Guarantee and Recruitwork formally entered into a partnership to deliver unique recruitment services for the city's school leavers. All opportunities offered through the Edinburgh Guarantee will feature on the pages of Recruitwork. Pupils who are due to leave school this year are being encouraged to register their details at Recruitwork so they can take advantage of any opportunities that might be of interest. The service was launched with the advertisement of 12 intern positions within NHS Lothian. Visit our website or www.recruitwork.co.uk to see more.



Jobcentre Plus partnership

The Edinburgh Guarantee team is working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus under 18 Advisors to ensure that local employers can potentially benefit from national incentives. Jobcentre Plus has introduced wage incentives linked to the employment of young people who have been unemployed and claiming a benefit for more than 6 months. Employers who create opportunities through the Edinburgh Guarantee are able to access this wage incentive if the successful young person meets the eligible criteria. For more information on the incentives see www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wi-questions-answers.pdf



O2 Recycle Bins on the move

In March 2013, eight O2 Recycle Bins will be moving in to Edinburgh College. The bins will be sited on all four campus areas: Granton, Midlothian, Milton Road and Sighthill in the reception and student areas. This is a further show of support for the O2 Recycle partnership with Edinburgh Guarantee, which is going from strength to strength. Any profits from resale of refurbished phones or reclaimed components will be paid to the Edinburgh Guarantee to assist young Edinburgh residents into positive post-education destinations.



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