



YEI Newsletter

1st Edition – January 2020

The quarterly newsletter produced by Hartlepool Borough Council on behalf of the Tees Valley Pathways and Routeways Consortia.

Welcome to the first Tees Valley Pathways and Routeways Newsletter. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep you updated with news, current performance and share some of the excellent results Consortia members by successfully moving young people into positive destinations.

Performance

The project is performing extremely well with most Partners delivering effectively although there are a couple of organisations who are working closely with their YEI Contract Manager to improve their performance to ensure outcomes are achieved for the programme. Both programmes are on target to significantly over-achieve which will demonstrate excellent value for money and stand the Consortia in good stead for future funding.

Performance to date is as follows:

Tees Valley Pathways

	Profile (Up to 31/12/19)	Actual (As of 08/01/20)	Overall Profile
Starts on programme (inactive and unemployed)	6498	6977	8698
Progressions (employment and into learning)	2683	3317	3695
Completions (Supported Interventions)	3787	4231	5765

Tees Valley Routeways

	Profile (Up to 31/12/19)	Actual (As of 08/01/20)	Overall Profile
Starts on programme (inactive and unemployed)	678	833	925
Progressions (employment and into learning)	308	427	445
Completions (Supported Interventions)	422	592	650

*If you would like a further breakdown of these figures please contact a member of the YEI Management Team.

The Tees Valley Pathways & Routeways Programmes are part-funded by the European Social Fund and supported under the Youth Employment Initiative.



Upcoming events

Thursday 26 March 2020 - CIL Events Hall, Burbank Street, Hartlepool TS24 7NY
We are to hold a Celebration Event at 2pm on Thursday 26 March 2020 to celebrate the 8,000th learner to the programme. It is envisaged this person will have started on programme between the end of February or early March 2020.

The event will not only be a Celebration of the success of the programme but will also feature an awards ceremony where awards will be given for the following categories:

- Outstanding Individual Participant – Darlington;
- Outstanding Individual Participant – Hartlepool;
- Outstanding Individual Participant – Middlesbrough;
- Outstanding Individual Participant – Redcar;
- Outstanding Individual Participant – Stockton.

Partners will be asked to nominate Participants who have overcome barriers or who have made exceptional progress, we will be looking for young people who have been outstanding and have been inspirational/motivated and/or have had an entrepreneurial attitude.

A nomination form will be developed and sent to all Partners in the next month to nominate suitable participants. A decision making team will be assembled which will include representation from Jobcentreplus and the five Local Authorities.

Friday 17th January 2020 - Unlock your Potential Careers Fair Community Hub Central, Central Library, York Road, Hartlepool TS26 9DE - Community Room.

To be held at the Community Hub Central between 1pm - 4pm please promote to young people you work with.

Monday 3rd February to Sunday 9 February 2020 - Children's Mental Health Week 2020 details relating to this week of activity from:
<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about-the-week/>

Wednesday 12th February 2020 - Cluster Group meeting
10.00 - 12.00 Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, Brougham Terrace, Hartlepool, TS24 8E

Friday 14th February 2020 - Cluster Group meeting
10.00 - 12.00 - Redcar & Cleveland Council, Meeting Room 4, 9 Kirkleatham St, Redcar TS10 1RT

Sunday 8th March 2020 - International Women's Day we will be promoting the day and the ethos of the day which is **#EachforEqual**. Details available from:
<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/2020Theme>

Monday 18 to Sunday 24 May 2020 - Mental Health Awareness Week. The focus will be on sleep - or lack of it - and mental health, details relating to this week of activity from:
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

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Equality and Diversity

Over the first quarter of the year we will be focusing on the following:

- Does the project have appropriately qualified staff to deliver the support – Partner's will be asked to provide a skills matrix for delivery staff to ensure they have the appropriate skills to support and guide young people.
- The breakdown of staffing (male/female) employed by Partners and working on the Project - An exercise will be undertaken to review the breakdown.
- The breakdown of Participants who have accessed the programme to ensure Equality & Diversity is fully integrated within the Consortia – A review will take place to identify the split of male and female participants across the Consortium and by individual Partner.
- Suitability of Partners premises to ensure there is access to all premises for all participants including those with disabilities – Arrangements will be reviewed as part of the Contract Review process.
- Promotion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2020.

The focus on Equality and Diversity is to ensure that no participant or groups are excluded from accessing support from the YEI programme.

We actively promoted International Men's Day to all our Partners and a number carried out activities, including Middlesbrough Council who presented their male staff with certificates recognising the work they have done "leading by example".



Picture of Certificate presentation for International Men's day at Middlesbrough Council (l to r: Michael White, Claire Kemp and James Jamison).

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Sustainability

The YEI Team will be promoting sustainability over the next few months of the year, and will be reviewing:

- Are we actively promoting responsible waste management? We will be having a paper re-cycling campaign in January 2020;
- Do we encourage partners to minimise the amount of waste they produce?
- How we can raise awareness to all staff, partners and participants about switching off all computers and electrical equipment;
- How we can host Contract Reviews in different ways, for example we will trial holding Contract Reviews via telephone or e mail;
- How can we promote car sharing and cycling to work for all partners and participants.

There are a number of good examples of the promotion of sustainability including the YEI team negotiated with Hartlepool Enterprise Centre to provide recycling bins to enable waste to be recycled, and as part of this the Enterprise Centre and other HBC Business Centres have implemented the use of recycling bins across all business centre sites. In addition one of our Partners has stopped using plastic wallets and a number of other Partners are looking at ways of cutting down on the amount of paper used and are implementing focused sustainability Action Plans.

Marketing

We are to compile a new Directory of Opportunities for the New Year. A Pro-forma was sent out on 02/01/2020 requesting updated details regarding individual Partners programmes. Can all partners ensure these Pro-forma's are returned by the end of January to enable the updated Directory of Opportunities to be compiled.

External Evaluation feedback

As you are aware ERS have recently undertaken a 2nd Interim Evaluation for both the Pathways and Routeways programme. The Evaluation reviewed performance against contract, looked at the quality of the programmes and interviewed participants from both programmes. The feedback included the following:

Pathways

- 80% stated that their confidence improved and 90% found that their motivations to find a job has increased;
- 90% felt that the skills they had learnt will help them to get a job;
- 54% of those interviewed had moved into employment and 15% were in education, training or volunteering roles

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Routeways

- 79% of respondents stated that a lack of work experience was their main barrier to employment
- 71% now felt they better understood the skills required to get the job that they wanted
- 79% had a better understanding of the opportunities available
- 100% of respondents stated that the support they had received had better prepared them for securing employment
- 43% had moved into employment

Management feedback

ERS confirmed that in their opinion:

- HBC are managing a successful consortium of partners who are all working together for a common goal
- HBC have had a number of successful audits from DWP and ESF, showing strong programme and financial management
- Strong relationships have been built between consortium partners, and between Pathways and Routeways deliverers
- JCP remains a key referral partner, with 'word of mouth' and internal referrals (especially colleges) also a successful approach
- Delivery Partners rate highly the support they receive from the Programme Management Team.

Overall the feedback was very positive and once the final version is received it will be circulated to all Partners and Stakeholders.

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Good News Stories



Model and TV actress Laura Pears has added 'businesswoman' to her job description after opening a café in her home town after attending Redcar & Cleveland Council YEI programme.

The 30-year-old has opened her own café in Eston, D'Dee's, which is named after her daughters Dekota and Danielle. She spent 11 months earning qualifications and accessing support through Redcar & Cleveland Council's Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

The hard-working mum, who has lived in Grangetown, Whale Hill and South Bank, explained she has invested everything she has into the café and transformed a building on Eston High Street, on the town's Precinct said Laura who has appeared in ITV's Vera and BBC children's show The Dumping Ground and is about to appear in an independent feature film. "It's been full on ever since! It's taken a year of hard work and every penny I have and much more just to get to this stage."

Laura who was the 'face' of Dalton Park shopping centre explained she was the YEI team's longest client, "I had support getting qualifications in food hygiene, business, health and safety and first aid" she said, which were essential to enable her to start up her business.



Katie Gofton was 24, unemployed and was referred to Tees Valley Sport YEI programme as she had returned to Hartlepool after graduating from theatre school in Essex and working in London as a professional dancer.

Katie wanted to build up her experience in the sport & physical activity sector and joined Tees Valley Sport YEI to gain this experience.

A programme of training was agreed and this required fitness qualifications which were funded through the YEI Flexible Fund and included a new American fitness workout called 'Pound' which involved a combination of high level cardio and strength training with constant simulated drumming.

On completion of her Tees Valley Pathways programme Katie gained employment with Hartlepool Council and is now delivering weekly fitness classes. The 'Pound' sessions she delivers have proved to be popular and KG is attracting a regular following of participants keen to improve their fitness levels. She also delivers dancercise sessions and works in schools inspiring young people in the town to lead more active healthy lifestyles.

Katie has now been in employment for more than 2 years and recognises the support provided was essential for her to move forward.



After leaving college in January 2019 Jack was unsure what to do next. Whilst at college he struggled with the academic subjects and found he enjoyed practical subjects such as Media and he left before starting AS Level Exams. After applying for a number of jobs, he saw a post on social media for Choosing Pathways (Middlesbrough Council) and contacted them.

Whilst on programme Jack did a work experience placement with Middlesbrough Council as a Digital Media Officer and worked on a number of media campaigns surrounding the local mayoral election producing short videos for people who lived in Middlesbrough. When the work placement came to an end, Jack decided he wanted to do more within the media sector and was able to gain a work placement on Channel 4's Sunday Bruch programme where he was a runner for the day and gave him a taste of what it would be like working full time within a TV studio.

At this point with the support from his advisor he was able to find a Level 3 Film Production course at Middlesbrough College and the Northern School of Art and started studying in September 2019. At the same time he started work at a local buffet restaurant on a part time basis whilst attending college.

Jack identified that these experiences helped him to build up his confidence and gave him practical work experience and to recognise what he wanted to do with his future.

We hope you have enjoyed this first edition of the Newsletter, please feedback any thoughts you may have or features you might like to see. If you have anything you would like including in the second edition please contact us on 01429 857080 or e-mail YEI@hartlepool.gov.uk.