

Employment & Skills Update

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Strategic Environment Committee, 31 March 2021

Skills and Employment Update

	March 2020	February 2021	Increase
Unemployment	2,300 (3.5%)	4,955 (7.6%)	115%
Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)	455 (6%)	965 (12.7%)	112%

Youth Steering Group – DWP, North Kent College, training providers, National Careers Service, GBC, etc
– information sharing and local partnership working, individual support for young people.

Specialist Youth Team (DWP)

- Youth Employability Coach
- 13 week Youth Employment Programme
- Job Finding Support Service – launched January 2021
- CV, job search, interview skills, e.g. The Grand

Movement to Work - www.movementtowork.com

North Kent College – ‘wraparound’ support to the Kickstart Scheme

National Careers Service

- Weekly Kickstart group sessions
- Get YOUth employed scheme
- Promoting apprenticeships

Key Issues

Communicating the employment support ‘offer’

Raising awareness amongst employers as to how to recruit locally

More jobs

London Resort

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS TASKFORCE established (6-weekly meetings, 1 March 2021 most recent)

The London Resort pledges that, in the construction phase, we will:

Seek to achieve or improve upon local labour rates for on-site workers;

Facilitate 100 – 150+ construction apprenticeship opportunities; and

Work with local authorities and businesses in order to find the most efficient way of maximising the use of local businesses in the supply chain.

Taskforce Discussions

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – should be “aspirational and achievable”

Not all about Apprenticeships (**T Level** placements, work experience, Traineeships, Kickstart and so on)

Provisional target of 100-150 Apprenticeships provided – Level & Quality essential & Delivery Mechanism

Upskilling career changers and unemployed too – short courses to get people on site / CSCS cards etc (i.e. not all qualifications-driven but skill required to take up a role)

Collaboration between skills providers – not stepping on toes but focus on maximum impact

Key Taskforce Actions

Developing ‘Asks’ for s106 and any ‘good practice’ benchmarks for London Resort to adopt

Identify vulnerable groups – NEETs, Care Leavers and others

Lower Thames Crossing

SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP, established by the LTC Benefits Steering Group (meets every 2 months - 22 February initially) to deliver strategy.

Priority Activity Developing a plan to “upskill local communities and remove barriers to local priority groups*
“improving employment” in support of SEE strategy & outline programmes main works contracts will partner with

Skills Requirement - current

Country level: security, traffic marshalling, apprenticeships, administration, general labour

Spoke: tunnelling, archaeology

Vacancies (incl. Apprenticeships) are advertised here (GBC prior notice): [Lower Thames Crossing - Vacancies](#)

[Highways England](#) & [Lower Thames Crossing - Working with us - Apprenticeships - Highways England](#)

Newsletter (skills, supply chain and other matters) – Keith to circulate

Priority Groups

care leavers | Mental Health impact | SEND | NEETs | Ex-offenders | Armed Forces | At Risk of

homelessness

Could members recommend any other groups, for targeted marketing / engagement?

Supply Chain SME Directory – (£1 in every £3 ambition for SME spend) – promoted to Business Network

Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of

South East Skills website now live!

New website to house labour market information, courses, partner resources and updates

Bringing together the resources, partners and information for the LEP's Skills Advisory Panel and Digital Skills Partnership

www.southeastskills.org.uk

Send any information, news etc to be added



Current Considerations

- **Construction Skills Academy** – a physical focus for local training and job opportunities?
- **Gravesham Skills Statement** setting out headline aspirations, to share with all stakeholders and guide consultation responses for Major Projects, s106 contributions, social value opportunities and contributions to the new North Kent Skills Group?
 - Adult Apprenticeships & re-skilling priority, to match unemployed with jobs growth?
 - Practical job-entry training, not just qualifications given priority?
 - Youth employment | Training | Work Experience | Apprenticeship Levy (similar to Essex Opportunity model?)
- How best to reach **local community champions**? Are there local groups known to members, which are active with young people and the wider community, that we ought to be working with on major projects such as London Resort and Lower Thames Crossing?