

Notes
Children and Young People Action Group
Thursday 27 March 2025
14.30 – 16.00
Hybrid at Petroc

Present

Sarah Sexon, Manager St Michaels Nursery
Kurt Hintz, Interim Principal and CEO, Petroc
Mike Matthews, Director at Lineal Software
Steve Hearse, CEO Torridge District Council
Mark Turnbull, Enterprise Coordinator, Careers Hub
Richard Light, CEO Tarka Learning Partnership
Keith Bennett, Headteacher at Marland School
Jody Le Bredonchel, Headteacher at Ilfracombe Junior School
Katie Potter, Senior Designer Dartington Service Design Lab
Tim Hobbs, CEO at Dartington Service Design Lab
Phil Harris, Devon Mental Health Alliance
Tony George, Partnership Manager DWP
Nicola Allen, Business Engagement, Petroc
Paul Curtis, Youth Connector, NDVS
Vashti Berry, Exeter University
Alex Farmery, Executive Officer, Petroc

1. **Career Hub Overview:** Mark Turnbull provided an overview of the Career Hub, explaining its funding sources, its role in career education, and its collaboration with local businesses and schools. They highlighted the importance of work experience and the need for businesses to engage with schools to provide accurate and up-to-date career information.

Presentation attached.

2. **Employer Engagement and Support:** Katie and Tim from KAILO presented their findings on employer engagement and support. They emphasized the need for employers to see the value in providing opportunities for young people and the importance of supporting employers in offering quality work experiences. They also highlighted the need for systemic changes to better connect schools, employers, and young people.

Presentation attached.

3. **100 Apprenticeships in 100 Days Campaign:** Nicola Allen provided an update on the 100 Apprenticeships in 100 Days campaign. They shared the success of the campaign, with 126 pledges received so far, and discussed the benefits of the campaign for both businesses and young people. They also highlighted the support provided to students in finding apprenticeships through the Talent Pool sessions. A dinner will be organised for all employers at the end of the campaign at the TAW restaurant with food and drink being prepared and served by Petroc's apprentices.



Presentation link [here](#)

- 4. Remote Work Opportunities:** Kurt discussed the hidden job market of remote work opportunities, particularly in the tech and financial services sectors. They emphasized the importance of training young people for these roles and ensuring they are aware of the opportunities available to them.

Presentation attached.

- 5. Adult Learning Courses:** Kurt shared the success of the adult learning courses offered by Petroc, with 600 adults enrolling in various short courses. They highlighted the positive impact of these courses on adult learners and the potential for expanding the program to reach more people in the community, including offering courses in different locations.

Presentation link [here](#).

- 6. Employer Barriers to Work Experience:** Mike and other participants discussed the barriers faced by small businesses in offering work experience, such as the need for employer liability insurance and the capacity to support young people. They emphasized the importance of understanding these barriers and finding ways to support small businesses in providing work experience opportunities.

- 7. Future Actions and Collaboration:** The group discussed future actions and collaboration, including the need for more research on employer needs and experiences, the potential for sector-specific engagement, and the importance of aligning with local initiatives like One Northern Devon. They also highlighted the need for ongoing communication and coordination among group members.

8. ACTIONS

- **NEET Statistics:** Obtain and share the percentage of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) for Devon, including a breakdown by age group, absenteeism and exclusions. (Tony)
- **Employer Engagement:** Coordinate with the Economy & Innovation Skills Group to conduct research on employer engagement and barriers for small businesses in offering work experience. (Katie/Tim/Nicola)
- **Work Experience Legislation:** Clarify the upcoming legislation on compulsory work experience for secondary schools and how it will be implemented. (Mark)
- **Youth Hub Potential:** Explore the potential for a youth hub within the DWP youth offer to support young people up to age 24. (Tony)



- **Employer Support:** Develop a guide to support small businesses in providing quality work experience placements, including addressing insurance and risk assessment requirements. (Katie, Tim)
- **Work Experience Pathways:** Collaborate with schools to Co-construct work experience pathways that align with students' curricular journeys and future career goals.
- **Expand Adult Learning courses:** Collaborate with Richard and Jody to potentially offer adult courses in Ilfracombe or other locations throughout North Devon. (Kurt/Richard/Jody)

The meeting concluded at 16.20 and the next meeting will be in June 2025.