

Notes
Children and Young People Action Group
Wednesday 8 January 2025
09.30 – 12.00
Hybrid at Caddsdow Business Centre

Present

Michael Barber, Delivery Associates, Government Advisor
Sarah Sexon, Manager St Michaels Nursery
Tom Holmes, Partnership Superintendent for Devon
Bill Blythe, Petroc
Kurt Hintz, Petroc
Mike Matthews, Director at Lineal Software
Tony Cole, Harland & Wolff, Training and Apprenticeship Manager
Steve Hearse, CEO Torridge District Council
Pete Morrish, CMTG
Mark Turnbull, Careers Hub
Stuart Brocklehurst, University of Exeter
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
Katherine Allen, Director of Strategy at Royal Devon Healthcare
Tim Hobbs, CEO at Dartington Service Design Lab
Phil Harris, Devon Mental Health Alliance
Tony George, Partnership Manager DWP

The meeting commenced with Introductions and a brief on the Children and Young People action group. The group is a vital part of Northern Devon Futures to unlock career opportunities for young people and make a difference.

Michael Barber, a Devon resident and chancellor at Exeter University as well as working with Keir Starmer at Whitehall, reported of his ambition for the Southwest to be the best in England and provided some scene setting for the Action Group.

Michael suggested 6 things that needed to be done:

- Need to raise expectations for families, students, employers
- Work on improving quality of teaching and learning
- Wider perspective on what success looks like
- Ensure Careers advice
- Identify specific skills employers require
- Encourage dialogue between the education system and employers

The group proceeded to discuss those points and others such as:

- Ensure careers hub is fully utilized
- Work experience for all young people

The group decided on the following objectives and targets:

Objectives

- Raise Adult aspiration
- Careers opportunities / Work experience Opportunities / Apprenticeship opportunities
- Lobby (Marketing is key to get adults and parents on board)
- Role of mentors/peers

Targets

- 100 Apprenticeships in 100 days
- Work Experience of 2 weeks for every young person in North Devon
- Careers – Kailo (every school leaver a job)

The meeting concluded at 12.00 and the next meeting date is tbc.