

Media Release

From the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire
www.push.gov.uk



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NEW JOBS, NEW FUTURES

The Future Jobs Fund (FJF), sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, was designed to break the cycle in which many young people are trapped. Without a job young people are unable to obtain the experience they need to getting a job in the labour market. Without experience, many employers are reluctant to employ young people in their organisation. PUSH continues to work with its partners and the business community to ensure that young residents in the sub region benefit from local jobs through improved working relationships with business organisations, Higher Education and Further Education Institutions.

The PUSH / Hampshire County Council consortium was successful in its bid to the fund with a project that intended to create 900 jobs for long-term unemployed people aged 18-24 in the Solent and Hampshire area, who are caught in this same catch 22.

Since placing the first of these young people in November 2009, 900 individuals have found work in a wide range of posts. These entry level posts ranging from Road Safety Co-ordinators and Assistant Youth Workers to Horticultural trainees and Home check Assistants, all provided benefit to the community and changed the lives of many of those who took part.

These vital roles gave these young people 6 months paid experience with public sector employers, a useful reference and an impressive start to their CV's. This experience together with the training and support they have received, have all helped to ensure that the participants are 'work ready'. In fact, over half of those that have taken part in an exit interview have indicated that they have now gone into further paid work.

The personal benefits to the participants have been even more compelling. One typical FJF recruit said, "I didn't think someone like me could get a job here," and yet many recruits have grown in confidence, confounded managers' expectations and become valuable members of the team.

Being given an opportunity and earning a fair wage was just the start for many of the participants, other benefits they cited included opening a bank account and gaining an insight into how big organisations work, but of the greatest value to all the new recruits was the clear impact it had on their self-esteem and confidence. Another participant commented that she didn't think she could do the job but she has and her manager was delighted with what she had contributed.

PUSH Chairman, Councillor Seán Woodward, said:

This intervention has been a great success. The vast majority of young people has reportedly benefitted from this experience and 65% feel that now, after the programme, require minimum support as a result of the skills, confidence and self esteem gained from the Future Jobs Fund programme. At a time when companies are under severe financial pressures and looking to increase productivity and efficiency, new recruits to any job are expected to 'hit the ground running'.

Together shaping the future of South Hampshire

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PUSH with the Future Jobs Fund have together provided opportunities for 900 long-term unemployed young people in our region and given them hope of a different future.

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Notes to the Editor

PUSH

1. PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Test Valley and Winchester.
2. PUSH in collaboration with local partners and government agencies continue to work to deliver sustainable, economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive and sustainable South Hampshire, which offers a better quality of life for all who live, work and spend their leisure time in the sub region.