

press release



Falkirk Council

19 April 2011

Young Employment Prospect Boosted By £1.7m Fund

Nearly 200 young people from across the Falkirk Council area will soon have their employment potential boosted thanks to a £1.7m investment package designed to tackle poverty.

A meeting of the Economic Strategy and Development Committee heard today (19th April) that 'Towards a Fairer Falkirk' report outlined the close link between poverty and unemployment and how the investment package would target those who are currently unemployed and disadvantaged due to lack of work based skills and qualifications. £750,000 of this funding will directly support a number of targeted programmes including:

- Training and Employment opportunities for 18-24 year olds who have been unemployed for between six and nine months, and are currently receiving Job Seekers Allowance;
- Employability support for young people who have basic skill needs and specific support where needed for young people leaving care and young people involved with the criminal justice system;
- Capacity Building with third sector services and organisations to help develop and enhance employability programmes and work based skills;
- Additional Modern Apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds - which will be match funded by another recent successful bid by the Council for European Social Fund Monies

Cllr Adrian Mahoney, Convener of Economic Strategy and Development said: 'This fund will undoubtedly make a real difference in helping many young people get into meaningful employment and training opportunities and give them a far better chance of progressing with a career or trade.

'By offering these opportunities we are tackling one of our major priorities in helping to reduce poverty across our communities.

'We will be closely monitoring our performance in this area, however we are confident that given our previous successes in this area, we will meet our targets and make a difference to around 200 young people's lives.'

For more information on how to potentially access these programmes contact the Employment and Training Unit on free phone 0800 028 0363 or at ETU@falkirk.gov.uk or visit the website www.falkirk.gov.uk/backingfalkirksfuture

- Falkirk Council (19/04/2011)

