
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STATEMENT

Employable Me!

Working in partnership with Job Centre Plus in Canton and the City Centre, the Adult Community Learning (ACL) service's Learning for Work programme delivered another two week 'Employable Me!' course for people aged over 50 who have been out of the workforce for a prolonged period. The course had 30 attendees and the course content consisted of:

- Skills for Employment
- Writing a CV and how to use it
- Digital – Finding and Getting a Job
- Applying for a Job
- Doing Effective Jobsearch
- Preparing for an Interview
- Engagement & Motivation
- Confidence Building

The learners also gained a qualification in Customer Service and an IT qualification.

Prepare to Care

"Prepare to Care" is a joint training programme provided by the Council's Into Work and ACL services, Hafod Care, Hafod Housing and ECLP Communities First. Learners will attend a four week training course, gaining a Level 1 Agored Cymru accreditation in Care Options. They will also be trained in Manual Handling, Food Safety Level 2, SOVA Level 2, Emergency First Aid L2, and undertake some E-learning modules.

The programme kicked off with an Introductory Day held on 5th October 2017, where participants met care professionals, toured some care homes and found out more about the course and about working in the care sector. After the four weeks, participants are guaranteed an interview and successful candidates will start a two week volunteering work placement at the earliest opportunity, which in most cases will lead to a job in home/domestic care. Should no jobs be available at that time, the candidates will stay "on the books" for a further six months and prospects of securing a job in the care sector are very high.

Customer Service Skills

ACL have delivered another successful course in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Tesco. 17 candidates attended a week long course where they gained an insight into the customer service levels that Tesco expect, interview skills, presentation skills and a Level 2 customer service qualification focussed on Tesco's values and beliefs and the importance of good teamwork. 14 of the 17 candidates were successful and given a 3-day placement in one of five Tesco Extra stores at Culverhouse Cross, Western Avenue, Pengam Green, St Mellons and Penarth. They were then interviewed for a position by the store manager. This has been another successful course with excellent outcomes.

Health & Wellbeing

DICE (Disability Inclusion in Community Education) will be working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to offer a range of accredited courses for adults with mental health issues at Hafan y Coed (HyC), the new Adult Mental Health Unit at University Hospital Llandough. This vibrant, new building replaces the former mental health unit at Whitchurch Hospital and includes facilities such as a cookery room, art exhibition and relaxation area, gardens and an orchard. DICE and HyC will share the expertise of dieticians, Occupational Therapists and tutors. Service users will be encouraged to move out into the community and attend further ACL courses.

European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages is celebrated across Europe in September every year. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone. This year, celebrations took place on 30th September at Central Library and ACL were pleased to be invited to participate in the event that was attended by 115 learners. They had the opportunity to attend language taster sessions in Welsh, Spanish French, Italian, German, Hindi/Bengali, Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese and Chinese that were led by tutors and to practice their language skills at conversation tables in the World Café.

European Local Democracy Week

The Leader and I, together with the Cabinet Assistants for Citizen Engagement (Cllr Dilwar Ali) and Youth Services (Cllr Ashley Lister), attended an event on 10th October 2017 at County Hall, which was held as part of the annual European Local Democracy Week coordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. We were joined by David Abadir, Member of Youth Parliament representing Cardiff, and pupils from schools across the city.

The theme of this year's event was "Citizen participation, consultation and commitment: for a thriving local democracy" and it aimed to explore how decisions are made in the city, including an introduction to local and national democratic structures. Participants were given the chance to ask a range of questions around the role of the Councillor and how the Council operates. Pupils then engaged in roundtable discussions on the recent results of the Make Your Mark ballot, in which over 10,000 young people completed a survey asking them to highlight the top issue affecting them.

Children's Rights

Cardiff has started its journey to become globally recognised as a Child Friendly City by forming a partnership with Unicef UK and putting children's rights at the heart of the city.

A range of activity has taken place over recent weeks, including a programme of children's rights training for elected members. In addition to this, a broad range of stakeholders have taken part in a Discovery Day. As part of this well attended event, partners and delegates from a wide range of council services listened to key messages from children and young people, discussed key research data and how we could embed a child's rights approach to improve the outcomes for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Last week, Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, also presented The Right Way Guidance to Headteachers at a meeting held in Cardiff. This framework for a children's rights approach for education in Wales compliments the wider approach to embedding children's rights taken here in Cardiff. We hope to build on the number of Rights Respecting Schools in the city, further enabling children and young people to learn about their rights and receive the protection they rightfully deserve. As one of the champions for the Child Friendly City programme, I look forward to working with all partners involved in this important piece of work and the development of a citywide action plan in the New Year.

Citywide Headteacher Meeting

The Leader and I welcomed the opportunity to attend the Cardiff citywide Headteachers' meeting on 12th October 2017. The Leader thanked Headteachers for all their hard work in securing the improvements in education across the city and spoke about the Capital Ambition priorities for Cardiff. He also expressed his commitment to education as one of the continuing priorities for this administration and the future prosperity in the city.

Full Circle

The Council has funded Full Circle to develop a 6-week programme to be used with vulnerable refugees/asylum seekers and Looked After Children. The pilot programme is being run at Mary Immaculate High School and will help children and young people to build a toolkit of strategies to manage their behaviour, while addressing any underlying issues of concern.

The programme aims to support a pupil's social and emotional development and wellbeing, creating a safe space to explore uncomfortable thoughts, feelings and life events, with time and support to test out more resourceful and appropriate behaviours outside of sessions. It explores the following six key themes through group and individual activities, discussion and creative approaches:

1. First Steps (Identifying Problem Behaviours)
2. Being Me (Exploring our Self Image)
3. Understanding Others (Developing Relationship Skills)
4. Managing Feelings (Developing Emotional Literacy and Resilience)
5. Moving On (New Behaviours and Consequences)

6. Next Steps (Action Planning & Skill Development)

These sessions are time-limited and aim to provide useable and appropriate strategies to assist children and young people to manage the situation and build confidence, self-esteem and a more positive outlook on life. Each pupil will receive a toolkit to keep and record their progress, with activities to develop resilience, a growth mind set, self-regulation and emotional literacy.

Estyn Recognition of Excellence

I am delighted to announce that two Cardiff Schools, Fitzalan High School and Ysgol Pencae, have been invited to attend an event on the 20th October 2017 to recognise their excellent Estyn inspection judgements. The Cabinet Secretary for Education will present Headteachers with a framed certificate at the event. Both schools will also feature in an Estyn case study publication.

Strategic Briefing for Governors

I attended the citywide Strategic Briefing for Chairs of Governors on 25th October 2017 at which I outlined the strategic estate priorities in Cardiff.

Councillor Sarah Merry

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills

26 October 2017