

The Skills > East Sussex Newsletter

Welcome to the quarterly Skills East Sussex Newsletter, bringing you news of employment and skills initiatives in the county.

News in Brief

Skills East Sussex

Skills East Sussex (SES) has agreed its three year action plan and will be circulating this after our next SES meeting on 5th July 2017.

SES Sector Task Groups

The SES Task Groups have been meeting regularly to address skills needs in East Sussex priority sectors. Over 40 employers are engaged in the; Construction, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Creative and Digital and Land Based Sector Task Groups.

SES is also working with East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) to address the skills needs of the Health and Social Care sector in East Sussex. A dedicated Visitor Economy Task Group will be set up in autumn 2017.

An update on the work of the SES Sector Task Groups can be found on [the Skills East Sussex webpage](#).

South East LEP

The South East LEP have invited all local partners to their Skills Showcase on 7th July 2017. This event will highlight the work in the region to promote and develop skills.

To register to attend the event [please click here](#).

Funding News

The launch of several new ESF tenders by the DWP and SFA are expected in the coming quarter. They will be announced on [the SELEP Skills Webpage](#).

The Careers and Enterprise Company Annual Conference



The work of the East Sussex County Council Employability and Skills team has been recognised as a beacon of good practice at The Careers and Enterprise Company's annual conference.

The team was asked to present about its strategic approach to careers advice and guidance

and effectiveness of our Enterprise Adviser Network. The event was attended by over 1000 representatives from employer and training organisations from across the country.

East Sussex Employers recognised at “Joining the Dots” Awards



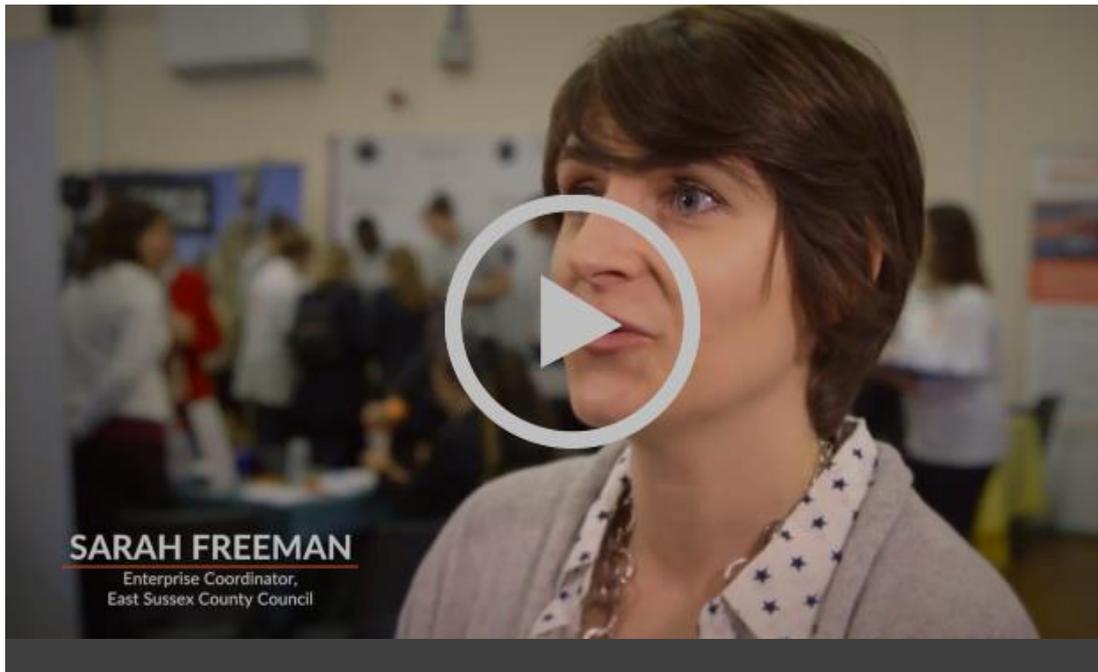
Employers supporting employability and skills work in East Sussex were recognised at The Careers and Enterprise Company’s awards ceremony at their “Joining the Dots” Annual Conference.

Catherine Brunger, one of our volunteer Enterprise Advisers, was presented with the regional award for her contribution to Employability Skills in a ceremony overseen by Lord Young. Catherine works for AXA PPP and is matched in the network with St Richards in Bexhill.

In addition to Catherine’s award, East Sussex Highways (the partnership between Costain-CH2M and East Sussex County Council) was one of only three companies shortlisted in the national award category alongside Adecco and Lloyds. Employers supporting employability

and skills work in East Sussex were recognised at The Careers and Enterprise Company's awards ceremony at their "Joining the Dots" Annual Conference.

Video celebrating the work of Skills East Sussex



A video showcasing the work of Skills East Sussex and East Sussex County Council on Employment and Skills in East Sussex is now available on the ESCC YouTube Channel.

The video centres on The Big Bang @ Eastbourne but shows how Skills East Sussex, SES Task Groups Progress, and The Enterprise Adviser Network work together to achieve our skills goals in East Sussex.

Enterprise Adviser Network and Progress update

The Enterprise Adviser Network has continued to expand in schools throughout East Sussex, with 30 schools matched with an adviser and 7 awaiting a match. The programme aims to match employers with schools to help them develop their careers strategies.

The Progress project has now reached over 7288 young people in East Sussex between

the ages of 11 and 19. The project started in April 2016 and will run to September 2017. The project aims to improve the employability and work readiness of young people in the county, improve work experience opportunities, reduce NEET and encourage young people to aspire to careers in STEM and other priority growth sectors.

East Sussex STEAMfest 2017



East Sussex STEAMfest has been taking place across East Sussex with secondary aged students taking part in employer led in school days, university lectures, STEAM competitions and teachers have attended STEAM CPD sessions.

The showpiece event of East Sussex STEAMfest was The Big Bang @Eastbourne which took place on 19th April and involved 627 students from 13 schools.

East Sussex STEAMfest is part of the Skills East Sussex project "Progress". It is run by STEM Sussex, an arm of the University of Brighton, and is funded by the Sussex Learning Network, East Sussex County Council, and the The Careers and Enterprise Company.

Open Doors 2017 (6th – 30th November)



After a successful launch in November 2016, East Sussex County Council is planning to run Open Doors again this autumn. Businesses will be asked to volunteer to accept visits from groups of schools children, give them a tour of their business, and speak to them about the different job roles in the business and what they need to do to work in similar roles in the future.

“Open Doors” is based on the principles of the Gatsby benchmarks of good career guidance, and the skills research of Dr Anthony Mann. Both Gatsby and Mann have found that employer encounters can raise attainment and reduce the chance of young people becoming NEET. It aims to show young people different work environments across East Sussex, and enable them to talk to skilled workers about careers in their sectors.

If your business or school is interested in taking part in Open Doors this November, please contact OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk for more information.

CPD Event for Schools and Enterprise Advisers 29th June

Schools and their Enterprise Advisers have been invited to attend the third and last Careers Education CPD event on 29th June, funded by the Progress project. The CPD events

throughout the year have focused on improving the quality and delivery of Careers Education, making effective use of labour market information, engaging with employers and alumni to inspire students, delivering high quality work experience learning, changes to apprenticeships, sharing best practice in working with Enterprise Advisers, supporting the transition of vulnerable young people, and preparing young people for modern day recruitment.

To date, the CPD events have been so successful that we will look to run 2 more next academic year.

To find out more please contact Caroline Bragg at Caroline.Bragg@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Refresh of the Skills East Sussex webpage

The Skills East Sussex webpages have now been refreshed, and the Skills East Sussex terms of reference, statement of priorities, the forward plan, and minutes of the previous three meetings are all available on the pages.

You can also find information on skills projects in East Sussex, our sector skills reports – which provide evidence and data on skills needs in our priority sectors –, information on the work of the SES Sector Task Groups and the latest news about skills and employability in East Sussex.

Please visit [the Skills East Sussex webpage](#) to stay up to date on the work of Skills East Sussex.

Good news stories from bespoke WEX

East Sussex County Council has been running a Bespoke WEX service for schools in East Sussex as part of Progress. The programme is specifically targeted at young people who are at risk of NEET and designed to help them transition into employment.

Below are some good news stories where young people have been offered apprenticeships out of their placements (Names have been changed to ensure anonymity):

John

John was identified as at risk of being NEET by his school and referred to the Bespoke WEX service, he had special educational needs and had struggled at school. John expressed an interest in carpentry and undertook a placement with a property maintenance company in Eastbourne.

John made great strides during his placement and the employer was so impressed that they offered him an apprenticeship. Jon starts his apprenticeship with the business in September 2017.

Paul

After being referred to the Bespoke WEX service Paul noted that he interested in cars, and wanted to go into sales. A local employer that could provide this experience was identified using the Aspire database. The employer was reluctant to take on a WEX placement as they were already trying to recruit an apprentice, and while they initially declined, they invited Paul in on a trial basis.

After a short time it was clear that Paul was fitting in really well, and his determination to work in this sector shone through. After being unable to successfully recruit a suitable apprentice, the business interviewed Paul for the position and offered him the apprenticeship. Paul is very happy and has continued attending in the school holidays to make up for days missed sitting his GCSE exams.

To find out more please contact Mark Likeman at Mark.Likeman@eastsussex.gov.uk or Carole Hate at Carole.Hate@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Apprenticeship Ambassador Training - Sign up your apprentice today!

Apprenticeships in Sussex are looking to train current apprentices as Apprenticeship Ambassadors over sessions in July and September 2017. Apprenticeships Ambassadors help promote apprenticeships to young people all over East Sussex by joining Apprenticeships in Sussex in schools and at events to talk to and inspire young people.

Apprentices who have taken part have enjoyed the experience and the training has raised their confidence, communication skills and helped them reflect on the opportunity they have been given as part of their apprenticeship.

If you have an apprentice who would benefit from this training or would like to find out more about the scheme please visit the [Apprenticeship Ambassador web page](#) for more information and a nomination form.

Alternatively, you can contact Melanie Butcher directly at melanie@apprenticeships-in-sussex.com



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