

### Stockton-on Tees Youth Assembly Annual Debate

30 September 2013 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library

#### Table 3: Getting Ready for Work

##### Our key messages are:

- All of the young people felt that they were uninformed about the types of jobs available. They felt that more information was needed on the jobs/opportunities and the best way to pursue them. Feedback from the young people revealed that schools were not providing enough of this kind of information. Schools needed to give more help to young people making choices – not just Plan A
- Travelling to work and lack of experience limited young people's opportunities
- Most felt that work experience was useful in helping young people to make choices about their futures and that there should be more opportunities for work experience
- Young people felt that there were negative perceptions about particular sectors (e.g. engineering, manufacturing) and that these sectors needed to do more to attract young people (particularly girls). Young people commented that they their choices had been influenced by what they enjoyed doing – not what would lead to work

##### Other issues discussed were:

###### *Opportunities*

- Not many job vacancies were advertised
- Travelling to work can be a problem for young people
- Young People's lack of experience limits their opportunities

###### *Careers Advice in Schools*

- Schools don't tell you what qualifications you need to get a job/ follow a particular career
- Schools needed to give more help to young people making choices – not just Plan A
- Young people commented that they their choices were influenced by what they enjoyed doing – not what would lead to work
- Some schools ran interview skills training and gave advice on how to do a CV. One young person said that the interview training they had completed had been really useful in giving basic practical pointers on interview skills (e.g. eye contact etc.)

### *Work Experience*

- Most felt that work experience was useful in helping young people to decide what to pursue. Some schools arranged it; others expected the young person to make enquiries themselves
- Young people felt that work experience was important and there should be more available – they felt that they were treated like an adult in the work environment and that this helped them to develop and learn to see the world from a different point of view; they felt that they acted differently in the workplace
- All of the young people would be interested in volunteering
- Councillor McCoy suggested that Stockton Council could consider establishing a work experience register

### *Awareness of the Local Economy*

- Young people commented that they had little or no knowledge about the Stockton Economy although they felt that this was probably about average – no better or worse than anywhere else
- One young person commented that the apprenticeship web site was out of date – still showing an apprenticeship in Collectables
- All of the young people felt that they were uninformed about the types of jobs available. They felt that more information was needed on the jobs/opportunities and the best way to pursue them. Feedback from the young people revealed that schools were not providing enough of this kind of information
- Young people felt that there negative perceptions about particular sectors (e.g. engineering, manufacturing) and that these sectors needed to do more to attract young people (particularly girls)
- Most young people commented that they read newspapers and kept up-to-date with current affairs. There was a general feeling that casual employment/ zero hours contracts were not a good idea

### *Individual Experiences*

- One young person with learning difficulties had experienced some prejudice and had struggled to find employment despite a positive work ethic. Young people commented that Job Centres pressurised them to find work even though they are doing everything they could
- One young person commented that there was an expectation at her school that students would go on the university, focusing on traditional qualifications rather than vocational training
- The young people felt that gender discrimination still existed in the job market and that girls were put on off some careers particularly those that were considered more competitive

### **Comments on other topics**

#### *Police and Crime*

- Young people felt unsafe being out at night or by themselves. This is why young people often go out in groups

#### *Health and Wellbeing*

- The young people did not understand the term “wellbeing”
- All the young people valued parks, play areas etc. and several used Splash