Supporting Vulnerable Young People into Apprenticeships

Lucy-Ann Bett

Supporting Independence Programme

Kent County Council

Why is KCC Involved?

- Commitment to Apprenticeships within Kent
- Evidence the benefits of employing vulnerable young people
- Evidence the cost savings to the public purse
- Understand the barriers for employers

Who is benefitting?

- 80 young people
  - Young Parents
  - Young Offenders
  - Care Leavers
  - Young people with physical or learning disabilities or mental health problems
- Employers

How it works

- Wage subsidy paid by KCC
- Support for employers
- Continued and tailored support for young people
- In-depth evaluation

Current Picture

- 33 Young people placed
- 10 Young people at interview stage
- 2 Young people dropped out
- Variety of roles

Apprenticeship Style Opportunities

- Bespoke training for young people with learning disabilities
  - Employed
  - Learning in the workplace
  - Accredited qualifications relevant to job role
- Training to include:
  - NOCN Award in Progression
  - Sector specific Level 1 vocational qualification

Challenges

- Communication
- Chaotic lifestyles of young people
- Constraints of the apprenticeship wage
- Finding employers
- Inflexibility of apprenticeship frameworks
- Co-ordination of project

Where next?

- All 80 young people to be employed by end May 2011
- Piloting of Apprenticeship Style Opportunities
- Look for funding opportunities to extend project past March 2012
- Work with national policy makers to address identified barriers

For further information contact me on:

Lucyann.bett@kent.gov.uk

07920526559