

BUILDING SITES

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Wheatsheaf Trust

S.A.F.E

Economic Development & Regeneration, SCC

Youth & Community support, SCC

Southampton City Primary Care Trust



Dear All,

As you may know, SITES held its annual conference at Central Hall in Southampton on Friday 3rd April. The day was successful in providing the opportunity for partners from across all sectors to come together to network and share ideas of best practice in the task of tackling worklessness. Speakers on the day included representatives from CESI, SEEDA, Jobcentre Plus, City Limits, Southampton City College and the City Council. I would like to thank all those who helped to make the day a success.

As we go to print the number of people out of work in Southampton has reached over 6,300, which is a rise of 86.5 per cent compared to the same time last year. There are now nearly seven unemployed people for every job vacancy notified to the Job Centre. This makes the challenges for SITES partners even greater.

This is the last Bulletin I will introduce before I retire in June and step down as chair of the SITES Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and hard work in continuing to work together to tackle worklessness in Southampton.

**John Beer, Executive Director of Communities Health and Care
Chair of SITES**

SITES is a partnership of local agencies and organisations who provide employment and training support to Southampton residents.

The current focus of the SITES network is to tackle the key issues of reducing high levels of worklessness across the city, particularly to meet skills shortages, reaching those living in Priority Neighbourhoods, and engaging employers in the worklessness agenda.

It is overseen by a board of around 20 members, with representatives from each key sector that contributes to achieving the aims of SITES.

Functions of SITES:

Support to partners	Support to individuals
Marketing	Job Search
Funding Opportunities	Coordination
Supported employment	Recruitment
Training	Negotiation with developers and employers to generate jobs for local residents

If you have any news or success stories you would like to share with other SITES partners, email: jenny.hunt@southampton.gov.uk

New Projects

**£2 million
to local
charities**

Local Charities win £2 million to help young people

Three Hampshire based charities have come together in a successful bid to bring much needed resources to some of the most deprived areas in South Hampshire.

The scheme will work with local residents, police, Councillors, and youth services to identify the most challenging young people in targeted parts of South Hampshire and use a range of creative and challenging activities to divert them from risky and antisocial behaviour into training and employment. The scheme will also involve the participation of parents and families who, in many cases, are from areas where two or more generations have been out of work for long periods. The aim is to reach 700 young people over the next two years in areas such as Leigh Park in Havant, Elson in Gosport, and the more deprived parts of the two cities, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The project will be run by Wheatsheaf Trust in conjunction with two partner charities, Motiv8 and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options, and is the first time all three have joined forces to work on a single programme.

**SAFE Choices
Programme**

Southampton Action for Employment (SAFE)

SAFE is a charity based in Southampton, set up in 1993. It seeks to help isolated and disadvantaged people rethink their lives and find new ways forward using talking therapy type support based on the principals of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

One of their programmes, Choices, has been developed as a unique intervention aimed at those who are not working and face mental health concerns, alongside significant barriers and disadvantage. It is based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and is a "vocational CBT course". 'CBT' involves disputing unhealthy beliefs. 'Course' means it is highly relational and involves group work. 'Vocational' involves identifying strengths and focussing on goals and hope. A vocational focus for CBT is quite unique, a first for Southampton, and has lead to a research project with the University of Southampton.

The research involves a randomised control trial led by Dr Nick Maguire of the University's Psychology department. The trial follows NHS ethics, with all candidates being screened under the supervision of a clinical psychologist.

While the sample is still small, the preliminary findings indicate that levels of depression for those within the Choices programme group went down compared to the control group. Levels of self-esteem within the programme group went up compared to the control, as did their confidence in job hunting. These are extremely encouraging findings, not least because this is a very hard to reach group, with complex health and social problems being faced. The final findings will be published when the research project is completed.

More candidates are welcome to join the project. For more information about the Choices course or the research please contact David Phillips at SAFE david.phillips@safe.org.uk or **Tel: 023 8042 1001**.

Websites

New Communities

E-Learning

New Communities website

As in other parts of the UK, Southampton has witnessed labour migration over the past few years, which has placed huge demands on language provision and work based training that cannot be met through existing provision. For example, time lags between student needs and the training and deployment of English language teachers may mean months, if not years, go by before the need is finally met.

This ongoing issue is now compounded by the recession and pressures on businesses and service providers to reduce overheads. It is within this context that e-learning is receiving new interest because of the ease, speed and reduced costs of development and delivery.

E-learning can enhance local capacity to address the training and English language needs of migrants without significant investment in human and material resources. Two providers are listed below. For further details, click the weblinks highlighted.

1. On-line work based English.

English for Life and Work is part of the Tribal Group. The website provides ESOL at all levels.

Courses include

Getting a job	Filling in forms
Health and Safety	Customer Care
Care	Cleaning
Construction	Hospitality
Logistics	Passenger transport

For more information you can click here:

<http://www.sotonnewcom.org.uk/employersguide.html>

The information pages for new arrivals in Southampton have also been amended to include information on internet based ESOL. A tutor can also be accessed on line if necessary.

¹ <http://www.kineo.com/elearning-market/e-learning-market-update-november-2008-.html>

¹ For more details, see

<http://www.kineo.com/elearning-market/e-learning-market-update-dec-08-.html>

<http://www.sotonnewcom.org.uk/learnenglish.html>

2. On-line Training

ALISON is a leading e-learning provider with a wide range of work skills courses. Its courses are free to individuals. Organisations must pay, with costs starting at £195 per group of 25 learners, per annum. The courses are not specifically designed with migrant workers in mind, they are for all learners. However, migrant workers unable to access courses at a local college would clearly benefit from such provision.

A key advantage for employers is that they would know how their money is spent. The Learning Management System means learners' activities within assigned courses can be monitored, charting their progress and assessment scores.

Click this link and click the ALISON button

<http://www.sotonnewcom.org.uk/employersguide.html>

Courses include:

Digital Literacy & IT Skills	Enterprise & Business Skills
Health & Safety & Compliance	Health Literacy
Language Skills	

Websites

Fast Forward Service



Fast Forward – Advancement Network Prototype

Fast Forward is the new adult career advice and support Advancement Network Prototype pilot formed with partners across the PUSH area. It is available to adults aged 19 and over, living in the South Hampshire region. The service is available from April 2009 to March 2010 and is the forerunner to a new adult advancement and careers service which will be available by the end of 2010.

Fast Forward can provide a range of practical services and offer advice and support to help overcome the barriers and progress in and back to work.

The service may be useful for clients who:

- want to change career
- are about to or have recently been made redundant
- want to develop in their current job
- are unemployed
- have learning difficulties or physical disabilities.

Support available comes includes:

Careers advice: Help with choosing the type of work where clients can use their skills to their best advantage. An initial assessment of skills will be carried out and any further training needed will be identified.

Personal development: An Individual Action Plan will be compiled to support the individual in achieving their goals. Help is available to tackle any barriers identified. We will work with the client and other organisations and programmes, such as Nextstep, to ensure they get the right support.

On-going support: Clients will continue to be supported, and will be contacted at regular intervals to make sure they have the help and advice needed.

Further information can be found: www.fastforwardsupport.com or contact ANP Pilot, Regeneration, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2BG.

Volunteers' Week 2009

Volunteers' Week 1-7 June 2009

This year's celebration and awareness raising about volunteering will take place at the beginning of June. With unemployment rising, volunteering can be a great way for people to keep a 'work' structure in their lives, learn new skills, or keep skills up to date while providing valuable support to residents or local groups.

Southampton Voluntary Services and the City Council will be promoting local volunteering during the week. You can find out more about volunteering opportunities in the city through the following weblinks:

www.southamptonvs.org.uk

www.southampton.gov.uk

www.do-it.org.uk

To find out more about Volunteers' Week 2009 log on to:

www.volunteersweek.org.uk

Support in the Recession

Extra support for unemployed people through Jobcentre Plus

Extra Support for the Unemployed

With unemployment continuing to rise through the recession the Government has announced extra support to those who are, or will be, impacted by job losses and significantly fewer jobs in the economy.

The measures provided through Jobcentre Plus include:

- Increased funding for Rapid Response services to help more people when they are made redundant
- Day one access to programme centres, the Adviser Discretion Fund and to local Employment Partnership vacancies
- 1 hour group information sessions on job search techniques
- 1 day coaching sessions delivered by external providers, including specific help for those looking for professional or executive jobs, sign-posting to specialist recruitment agencies
- More funding for Access To Work
- For customers who remain out of work after 6 months – increased adviser support, including skills screening and a skills health check if needed

More information on what jobseekers can do to help themselves can be found by visiting the website: www.direct.gov.uk.

The recent government Budget highlighted further measures to come, to support unemployed and redundant residents. These include:

- An additional 1.7 billion to DWP to ensure that Jobcentre Plus services can deliver services to individuals and to the Flexible New Deal programme for the long term unemployed
- A guarantee for 18-24 year olds (who have been claiming JSA for up to 12 months), a job, work placement, or work related skills training for at least 6 months. New funding has been offered through the **Future Jobs Fund** to enable local authorities and partners to support jobs for young people. Local authorities in the PUSH area intend to submit a bid for this. For further information email regeneration@southampton.gov.uk
- 50,000 traineeships for young people in the care sector through Care First. Social care providers will receive a subsidy for offering sustained employment and training to young people who've been out of work for 12 months
- The creation of 100,000 new jobs in socially useful activities, 10,000 of these will be green jobs. These will be funded through local authorities and partners
- The public sector will be required to ensure that 25 % of their external recruitment is targeted at individuals without a job
- Additional funding for local authorities in areas of high unemployment to provide a further 50,000 jobs
- The level of statutory redundancy pay has been increased to a rate of £380
- Additional funding allocated to the Social Fund to support the increased demand for emergency needs

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New Opportunities

DWP programme coming to Southampton

Flexible New Deal

A new advice and support programme that brings together all of the existing New Deal strands (Young People, Lone Parents, Over 50s, Partners etc, Musicians) into one generic programme will be coming to Southampton and the rest of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2010. The services are being contracted through the Department for Work and Pensions' Prime Contractor model.

The first phase of contracting is underway. Surrey, Sussex and Kent are the nearest areas within this phase, with delivery due to start from Autumn 2009.

Hampshire and IOW is expected to be in the second phase. If this follows a similar timescale to Phase 1, then the contracting process will get underway in the near future.

To date the only major contractor that has been in contact about Southampton's situation is A4E. They have requested local partners to register their interest in being part of local delivery. You can submit your organisation's details through A4e's website at www.mya4e.com and go to the Partners section.

Expansion of Apprenticeship support

Funding for Apprenticeship Training Agencies

Bids are being invited for a £7 million pilot initiative to set up or expand "Apprenticeship Training Agencies" - a new model of managing apprenticeships, which involves companies or partnerships acting as a recruitment agency, hiring out apprentices to 'host' employers and other organisations. The funding is open to a range of organisations including; Sector Skills Councils, National Skills Academies, Existing Group Training Associations, Colleges, Training Providers, Third sector organisations, Local Government Organisations, Higher Education Institutions, Employer groups, and Recruitment and employment agencies. Group Training Agencies (GTAs) have been in existence since the 1960s to provide skills and training on behalf of groups of employers. There is a two stage application process. Applicants should submit a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, the deadline for which is the **28th May 2009**. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a more detailed application by 13th July 2009. For more information, please visit: http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/apprenticeships_funding_bids and www.apprenticeships.org.uk/About-Us/Publications.aspx

Events

SITES Conference 2009

SITES Annual Conference 2009

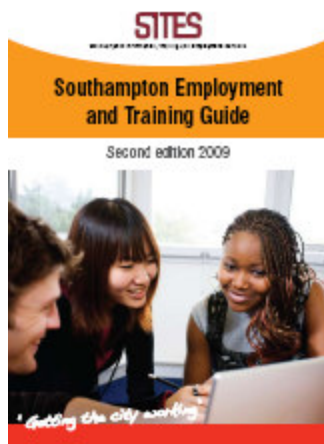
As many of you will know, SITES held its annual conference on Friday 3rd April at Central Hall in Southampton.

This year's event focused on tackling worklessness through the recession and brought together partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to share in methods of best practice and it provided a real networking opportunity.

Damon Gibbons of the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, reported to delegates on the findings of the Houghton Review on Tackling Worklessness along with Pamela Dent and Dave Clark from the University of Portsmouth, who presented their findings on the statistical research carried out on worklessness in Southampton. If you would like to see the presentations given at the conference they will be made available on the SITES web pages. Please visit:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/employment/employmenttraining/sites/conference.asp>

The new **SITES Directory**, distributed at the conference, listing employment and training organisations has been published with updates and new entries.



Copies will be distributed to SITES partners in due course. For further copies or information please email regeneration@southampton.gov.uk

If you would like to be included as a provider in future editions please contact us on the email above or telephone 023 8083 3936.

SITES Adviser Training

Southampton Employment Adviser Network

FREE WELFARE BENEFITS TRAINING SITES is supporting a one day training and development opportunity for frontline staff that advise or support workless clients in Southampton. If you are an information, advice & guidance provider, or deliver welfare benefits information, this course will be beneficial to you in your work.

SITES, together with SARC (Southampton Advice & Representation Centre), is offering a welfare benefits training course which will provide a general overview of welfare benefits with reference to how they relate to work. This includes the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) which replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on incapacity grounds for new customers last year. The course and tutor are Continuing Professional Development accredited. Spaces are limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. The day includes lunch (Vegetarian/Vegan included), tea & coffee and all course materials. The venue is accessible.

WHEN: Monday 8th June 2009, 9:45am to 4:30pm.
WHERE: SARC, 11 Porchester Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 2JB.
TO BOOK: Peter Marsh-Jenks Tel: 02380 431435 or E-mail: peter.marsh-jenks@sarc.org.uk

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Contact Details

Have we got your correct contact details? To ensure we have accurate records of your contact details please confirm your details by either sending the slip below to:

Jenny Hunt, Economic Development & Regeneration, Southampton City Council, Ground Floor, Southbrook Rise, 4-8 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG, or call 023 8083 3010. This information will only be used for the purposes of the SITES scheme and will not be released to third parties for promotional activities.

CONTACT NAME _____

BUSINESS/ORGANISATION NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL NUMBER _____ FAX _____

EMAIL _____