

## ***BUILDING SITES***

### SITES Board Members:

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Assistant Chief Executive  
Southampton City Council

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Hyde Martlet Housing Association

Wheatsheaf Trust

Solent Skill Quest

SAFE

Economic Development & Regeneration, SCC

Young People & Community Support, SCC

Southampton City Primary Care Trust

Southampton Jobcentre Plus

Dear Colleagues,

Partnership arrangements around economic development and skills are changing in the city. Part of my role in joining the City Council was to try and rationalise the many groups that are linked to the city's Strategic Economy and Enterprise Board which is part of the Southampton Partnership. Recently, the Skills and Employability Board which oversaw Southampton skills development, has decided to disband. The worklessness element of the Skills Development Zone is to merge with SITES and other changes will be worked through by the end of the year. This will help to create a clearer picture for partnership groups to focus on in Southampton. While the economic picture has been very gloomy over the past year, on a positive note unemployment levels have seen small decreases in the last two months. Let's hope this continues!



**Dawn Baxendale**  
Assistant Chief Executive, Southampton City Council

**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 SITES aims.

### **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/success stories you would like to share or promote to other Southampton providers, please email them to: [regeneration@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@southampton.gov.uk) or telephone 023 8083 3010.**

### Think Family Project

#### Think Family

##### Are you working with adults in Southampton who have children?

Think Family in Southampton is a 3 year project funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families and delivered by Southampton City Council, working in partnership with the Primary Care Trust, the voluntary sector and others.

Think Family offers support to families where the parent is experiencing problems with debt or drug/alcohol misuse. The team can work with and support families by assessing needs and bringing a range of services together to tackle their problems which can range from parenting to money management or alcohol treatment.

Think Family is about early support and about working with families who have emerging problems and issues, to prevent those problems from getting worse and impacting more on the children. A report for the Southampton Partnership suggests that there are already key positives and progress to highlight at this early stage in the project. The project has seen a commitment amongst agencies to the principles that the project is promoting and there is genuine inter-agency involvement – such as secondments from Hampshire Probation Service and Education as well as a placement from a Social Work course at University of Southampton.

##### **What you can do as a provider:**

If you work with adults who have children, it is important to think about the impact of the adults' behaviour on the whole family.

If you are aware of parent-based family issues such as debt, poverty, unemployment, alcohol or substance misuse, or contact with the criminal justice system, you can make them aware of Think Family, and the support that is available to them.

You can make a referral in the following ways:

Telephone: 023 8083 3988 and ask for the Think Family Team.

Email [think.family@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:think.family@southampton.gov.uk) and ask for a referral form. A team member will then make contact with the family.

If your referral does not meet the criteria for Think Family the team will try to identify other parent or family support that can help.

### Managing Migration Pressures

#### Migration Impact Fund

A recent bid, on behalf of the Southampton Partnership to the Government's Migration Impact Fund was successful in securing £960,000 of funding across two years for the city. The original bid was developed and agreed in consultation with the Police, Department for Work Pensions, NHS Southampton City, Learning & Skills Council, Business Link, Children and Learning Services, as well as voluntary sector organisations working with migrant communities in the city. The bid identified a range of interventions to manage the impact of migration that will be delivered by key partner organisations across the city, including Southampton City Council.

The interventions include:

- Reducing street homelessness by half amongst EA8 (8 countries acceding to the European Union in May 2004) nationals.
- Reducing pressure on accident and emergency, maternity and other services.
- Reducing costs of interpreting and translation services

### **Migration Impact Fund continued...**

- Reducing the cost of fostering and adoption services
- Working with GP practices and colleges to improve new migrant access to services
- Pilot innovative use of websites and IT to provide information to migrant communities.
- Develop pilots with at least one school and GP practice in year one.

Part of the funding will be spent on greater pre entry community based Esol (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision in Southampton, providing an additional 150 places in the first year (and a possible 150 in the second year) for community based pre entry level Esol, including some crèche facilities. Courses will link participants to other accredited learning opportunities and use materials that promote appropriate access to a range of statutory and other services in the city. The places will be commissioned through the CLEAR project as part of the overall managing migration pressures project.

If you would like any further information on the overall project you can contact Anthony Pascoe, [anthony.pascoe@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.pascoe@southampton.gov.uk) in the Stronger Communities and Equalities Team at Southampton City Council.

### **SEEDA Regional Intelligence Snapshot for South East**

Employment continues to fall in the South East, with the number of people in work dropping by 23,000 in the 3 months to July. According to the PMI Survey, employment in the region fell for the 14<sup>th</sup> successive month in August, but the pace of decline has eased. The fall in employment was the slowest since September 2008.

Unemployment continues to rise, with ILO (defined by International Labour Organisation unemployment up by 20,000 in the 3 months to July, while the claimant count increased by 3,070 between July and August. Redundancy notifications increased in September, to 2,350 compared to 1,300 in August. Unemployment amongst 18-24 year olds in the South East has been rising over the past year, at a faster rate than in the UK, but slower than the rate of increase in total JSA claimants.

There are some positives within the construction industry. Kilmartin has unveiled proposals for the £325m transformation of Southampton's waterfront. Including new shops, hotels and offices.

In the service sector Hampshire and IOW have seen a marked increase in the number of redundancies in the service sector compared to the previous two months; the sub-region accounted for 30% of all notifications in this sector in September.

In retail footfall is generally up on the year but spending per head is lower and sales are generally below average for the time of year. While some retailers have gone into administration, there are a number of new stores opening in the area, in particular Waitrose who will be opening small convenience stores across the south east.

### **Update on ANP Pilot**

#### **Advancement Network Prototype (ANP) – First Interim Report**

In 2008 the PUSH area was successfully awarded one of the 10 ANP pilots in England. These are the forerunners of the Adult Advancement Career Service which is currently out to tender and is due to be up and running in Autumn 2010.

To date, the pilot has achieved over 70 % of its target 800 referrals across the PUSH area, only halfway through the year. It is very close to the project target for residents getting a job with 95 progressing into work, and above target for residents moving onto training.

The prototypes are being evaluated nationally by the Institute for Employment Studies and the first interim report has been published.

This has indicated that few pilots have yet drawn together all aspects of the holistic network that was envisaged and there is limited engagement with young people's services, while the concept of what advancement means needs greater definition. The PUSH pilot is being cited as an exemplar because of its direct work with residents.

#### **Former Vestas workers finding routes back into work**

A report by SEEDA has described how former Vestas workers are finding routes back into employment following the company's announcement of 425 job cuts earlier this year at its factory on the Isle of Wight, and at its Woolston plant in Southampton.

Figures collated by Jobcentre Plus demonstrate some positive progress, with more than 160 former Vestas employees finding work or training since losing their jobs in August.

So far 70 people have secured new employment and 94 are on training courses to learn new skills. A number of people secured jobs on the island and mainland directly through job fairs organised by the SEEDA-led task force. Those re-training include 6 people becoming driving instructors and 24 are on the Southampton City College Aluminium welding course. (For more information on this course you can contact Ken Cast at Southampton City College on 02380 724722.)

A number of former workers have established their own businesses. These include the following:

- A new wind turbine repair company
- 3 new landscape gardening businesses
- two new guest houses
- A new supply chain consultancy on the island, set up by a former Vestas manager
- Two setting up as independent painter and decorators

The number of people claiming jobseekers allowance has fallen steadily since the redundancies were made – from 274 to 204. However, there is still significant work to be done to support former workers and so the taskforce will continue to identify suitable opportunities and provide advice.

Oona Muirhead, SEEDA's Executive Director of Skills and Sustainable Prosperity has said the efforts of the taskforce, which is lead by SEEDA and includes JCP, LSC, IOW Council and Southampton City Council, have started to deliver benefits for redundant workers and local employers. The full media release can be viewed on the SEEDA website [www.seeda.org.uk](http://www.seeda.org.uk).

### **Vestas Redundancy Update**

## Funding

### Comic Relief Funding

#### Comic Relief / Sport Relief - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Funding is available to small locally based groups for projects that benefit those who are excluded or disadvantaged, ranging from £1,000 to £10,000.

The Comic Relief / Sport Relief grant scheme is provided by Comic Relief and administered locally by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation. Funding is intended to support local projects that will directly benefit people who are excluded or disadvantaged through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disabilities, race, sexuality or gender. Projects should support work in small geographical areas such as an estate, town or village but not wide areas such as a city or district borough unless the project is aimed at a specific target group of people with a distinct shared theme. Priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions as a means of addressing these needs.

For details on who is eligible to apply please visit the website below for the full criteria. Applicants should complete an **Expression of Interest** form, which can be found on the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation website, and email it back to the Foundation.

Contact the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation for further information.

Toni Shaw, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, Sun Alliance House Wote Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 1LU. Tel: 01256 776101

Website: <http://www.hantscf.org.uk/default.aspx?id=68>

### Changes to Benefits

#### Important changes for people receiving Child Benefit:

From November 2009, Child Benefit will no longer be deducted from Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit payments.

This means that some people currently receiving Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit payments will receive more benefit with which to pay their rent and council tax.

In addition, some low income families may become newly entitled to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit as a result of this change.

This will help:

- many families who have missed out in the past because their income was too high to receive extra financial help towards their rent and/or council tax costs.
- working families who are already receiving assistance with rent and council tax as they will see an increase in their benefit

Existing claimants shouldn't have to do anything – as their benefit will be recalculated automatically from 2 November. But those who are now likely to qualify for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit will need to make a claim.

The clients you are working with in Southampton may now qualify for help with their rent and/or council tax. For further information or advice on benefits you can contact Welfare Rights at Southampton City Council on 023 8083 2671 or visit:

[www.southampton.gov.uk/welfarerights](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/welfarerights)

## **Contact Us**

### **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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor , Marland House, 17 Civic Centre Road Southampton SO14 7LT.**

Or call 023 8083 3936. This information will only be used for the purposes of the SITES scheme and will not be released to third parties.

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TEL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_