

Area Board Project

1. What is the Initiative?

Setting up of a Job Club to offer support help and guidance to people out of work or looking for work. This project would be run by Crosspoint with volunteer support and would initially be a one year pilot project reviewed at the end of 12 months.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

The Job Club would be run from the Crosspoint Welcome centre in the Market Place, Westbury. Although definite arrangements have not yet been made it is anticipated the job club would be held every Friday morning.

3. When will the initiative take place?

As soon as funding is available preferably commencing in September 2012.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/links to Community Plan/Community Issue?

- Joint Strategic Assessment* data: the March 2011 Claimant Count figures showed that the percentage of the working age population who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Westbury Community Area was 2.6%, the fourth highest in the county. This compares to 2.1% across the whole of Wiltshire.
- Current statistics demonstrate a higher than national average number of 18-24 year olds looking for work in the Westbury area. In May 2012 in the Westbury Ham 3.3% were out of work compared to 2.7% in West Wiltshire. 42.2% of these were aged 18-24 compared with 31.4% in West Wiltshire and 28.5% nationally. In Ethandune 1.6% were claiming JSA but of these 41.7% were aged 18-24. (for these figures and up to date data please visit <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>)

*The JSA document sets out the strategic issues for the community area for the next three years based on data, information and knowledge about Westbury Community Area and can be viewed at <http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/local-area-profiles/>

- Community Plan - Westbury Area Board and Westbury BA13 Community Area Partnership are working together to address issues raised by the community at the Westbury Forward event and in public consultation. One of the issues raised was the need for **a job club to offer advice, help and support to people seeking work.**

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

The main purpose of the Job Club would be to:

- Provide a friendly environment where job seekers can come to improve their job search skills and share experiences with other job seekers. This could include updating and advice on CVs and use of free computers for job searches.
- Offer guidance for job seekers about other agencies/organisations who might be able to assist them with their situation/job search.
- Encourage local employers to use the job club to source new employees to fill vacancies.
- Provide occasional specialist to offer advice on subjects like self employment, setting up own business etc

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

The project will be led by Crosspoint and run by volunteers.

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

The Westbury Area board is leading a grant application for £2,000 for this project.

Costs involved in setting up and running the job club would be:

- Advertising including leaflets, newspaper advertising
- Purchase of one additional computer to ensure availability for online job searches
- Refreshments
- Stationery, stamps,
- Newspapers
- Contribution towards Crosspoint premises ref heating and lighting

8. Additional information