

Area Board Project

1. What is the project?

Careers Guidance

A project to build upon the success of the mentoring programme at Devizes School including improving provision for careers guidance

The Devizes area board are asked to support the project and provide 50% of the funding (£2,500). The other 50% will be provided by Devizes School

2. Background

Links between business and Devizes School were strengthened through the introduction of a mentoring scheme in 2012. This proved to be successful and the area board piloted in 2013 the employment of a consultant to focus upon improving this further.

During 2014, this project has resulted in improved careers guidance, a stronger focus on apprenticeships and most importantly helping to secure the future of students, preparing them for entering the world of work. The number of businesses taking part has greatly increased.

A successful careers fair was held at the school and this was well attended by businesses and students. This model's success has been recognised outside the Devizes area and other community areas are now looking to replicate it.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that Margaret Bryant (current consultant) who has good links with Devizes School and local businesses is hired to continue this important work and build upon this success.

4. Where is the project taking place?

Devizes School.

5. When will the project take place?

Funding is currently available up until the end of March 2015. This will allow the project to be continued for another year

6. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/desired outcomes?

The key benefits for the community are:

- Young people are more prepared for work and in a better position to obtain employment.
- Young people will have access to more opportunities for work experience
- Young people will receive improved careers guidance and awareness
- The partnership between business and schools will be strengthened
- Teachers will be freed up to focus upon other demands.
- The outcome of the above benefits is to improve the local economy and create a more resilient community

7. Who will manage/be responsible for this project?

The project will be managed by the consultant who will report to Devizes School Governors. Devizes School. An evaluation after the year will be brought to Devizes area board.

8. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

A total of 200 hours (28 days) will be allocated to the project

The total cost will be £5k. Devizes School gave agreed to fund 50% of the project and the area board are being asked to fund the remaining 50% (£2,500)

9. Additional information

Three clear priorities in Wiltshire Council's new business plan are to:

- To protect those who are most vulnerable
- To boost the local economy – creating and safeguarding jobs and;
- To support and empower communities to do more for themselves.

This project clearly addresses all three priorities.