

# New Work Connections

Issue 4 EU Day Bulletin, 9th May



**Supporting people furthest away from the Labour Market into education, employment & training**



# Europe Day

9th May

Celebrated within the European Union as 'Schuman Day' or 'Europe Day' as it is more commonly known - the 9 May is an occasion for regions across the EU, including Wales, where Structural Funds are benefiting people, businesses, communities and the environment.

On 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, made a speech on behalf of the French Government to propose the pooling of French and German coal and steel industries under a joint European institution. It is thought that this led to the birth of the first European Community Institution, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and eventually to the European Community itself. For this reason, during the Milan Summit of EU leaders in 1985 it was decided to celebrate 9 May as Europe Day.

Please join us in Celebrating EU Day by reading about our European Funded Project, New Work Connections with exciting updates and News of the project's success so far.....



# New Work Connections

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## Our aim

The aim of **New Work Connections** Project through provision of a range of interventions is to reduce economic inactivity, and improve employment levels amongst the most disadvantaged groups across the four local authorities; which are Anglesey, Conwy, Gwynedd and Denbighshire.

New Work Connections is a major project funded by the Convergence European Social Fund through the Welsh Government, to support various groups facing disadvantage into training, education and employment. This project supports the following target groups as a priority:

- **People who are facing significant challenges obtaining employment, education and training**
- **People who have a work limiting condition**
- **People ages 16-18 and not in education, employment or training (NEET)**
- **People who have a physical or sensory impairment**
- **People who have a learning disability or learning difficulty**
- **People who have mental health needs**
- **Lone Parent with sole caring responsibility for a child/children**
- **Older People (50 or over)**
- **Women returning to work**
- **People who have caring responsibilities**
- **Black Ethnic minority (BME)**



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**New Work Connections** are still receiving a vast amount of referrals and are currently providing support to over a 1000 Individuals across 4 Counties; Denbighshire, Conwy, Anglesey and Gwynedd.

## What we offer.....

- **Intensive one to one support; dedicated caseworker providing support to individuals to enable them to reach their full potential**
- **Job search support; Interview techniques, CV writing support and Work Clubs**
- **Basic IT Skills**
- **Support with confidence and self-esteem issues**
- **Help to remove challenges and barriers**
- **Funding for training/education**
- **Support and assistance for employers**



# Progress to Date

The project has supported **1573** participant to date of which:

- ✓ **698** - out of work for up to 12 months
- ✓ **875** - out of work for over 12 months
- ✓ **686** - females
- ✓ **887** - males
- ✓ **668** - who have a work limiting health condition or disability
- ✓ **85** - who have a sensory impairment
- ✓ **675** - have no qualifications at all
- ✓ **962** - have achieved at least one positive outcome
- ✓ **91** - have attended a work placement/volunteering opportunity



## Positive Outcomes

Positive outcomes are really important steps towards people's journey into education, employment or training. They could include, thinking skills such as problem solving abilities, personal attributes such as improved self confidence, or practical work-focused skills, such as better appreciation on the importance of timekeeping in the workplace, etc.

**A Total of 962 participants have achieved a Positive Outcome to date**

## Entering Employment

The number of participants entering employment as a result of participation in the project. Employment includes self-employment and can be full-time or part time. However, employment must involve a minimum of 16 hours a week and must be paid employment.

**A Total of 43 participants have secured Full Time Employment to date.**

## Further Learning

The number of participants entering Further learning as a result of the participation in the project. Further learning can include formal academic or vocational education and less formal skills development training.

**A Total of 37 participants have gone onto Further Learning to date**

# Local Activities



The newest member of Staff is Mrs Caroline Tattersal who previously worked in a third sector voluntary organisation and is now working on our mental health recovery project.

Anglesey offer a wider range of modules that any participant can take part in. The modules include a history module which involves visiting different historical sites around Anglesey such as; Beaumaris Gaol and Courthouse and Plas Newydd. They also visit Anglesey Archives and search through old documents for information on the sites we visit.

There is a music module which has proven successful, it is based at a music studio in Llangefni and run by a group named 'Bocsŵn'. During the music sessions participants can learn to play an instrument, compose and edit a song and add vocals if they wish. By the end of the module participants go away with a CD recording of their song.

Anglesey have also just recently began the module at Melin Llynonn Mill and so far participants have helped to lay down some gravel for easier access of wheelchairs to the site and they have also participated in some willow weaving to help strengthen some of the fences on site. Anglesey hope that in the summer participants will be able to volunteer in the shop and café on site and help give guided tours to visitors of the site.

Anglesey held their 'Open Day' on the 26th March at Canolfan Byron, Anglesey. The 'Open Day' was proven to be very successful and numerous individuals who attended Canolfan Byron decided to register on to the project (more information on page 7).

**For further information please contact Anglesey on 01407 721959 or Email: [newworkconnections@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:newworkconnections@anglesey.gov.uk)**



Case workers are working with employers on behalf of their participants, assisting them to find employment. This has proved very successful and the project has received positive comments:

*"Cannot fault the help I received. It gave me a better perspective on my problems and the way I deal with them, which had been putting barriers in my way socially and with employment." (anon 2012)*

*"I have been given a chance to show I can work. I love the job and get along with everyone. Thanks for the Chance." anon 2012)*

The Builder Street 'Friday Drop In' sessions have also proved successful; local jobs are displayed and participants are supported with applications. A Public Access PC is being set up to allow participants carry out job searches and on-line applications.

Gail Selley (Team Manager-NWC) and Mike Roberts (Team Leader-NWC) hosted an information stand at a recent Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness open day. The event was hosted at the Interchange in Old Colwyn, facilitated through Conwy County Borough Council's Adult learning Disability Team and was open to the public. Along with New Work Connections a number of other organisations attended including; Denbighshire EPS and Counselling Service, National Autistic Society Wales, Options Group, ASD Outreach Team, Autism Initiatives UK, Ysgol Plas Bron Dyffryn, Ysgol Gogarth and Careers Wales.

**For further information please contact Conwy on 01492 576582 or Email:**

**[newworkconnections@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:newworkconnections@conwy.gov.uk)**

# Local Activities



Welcome to the newly appointed Local Manager for Denbighshire, Paul Greatbatch. In addition to Paul, Jacque Walker, Co-ordination and Monitoring Officer and Katie Jones, Project Case Worker are also new recruits.

*(Paul Greatbatch, Denbighshire Local Manager)*

New Work Connections is offering free IT help and support at Ruthin, Llangollen and Denbigh Libraries for anyone who meets the projects criteria who would like advice or assistance seeking work, further education or training.

For those people seeking employment they can offer assistance and support in writing CVs, producing job application covering letters, using the Internet to search and apply for jobs, help with application forms and interview skills. An IT Mentor from the New Work Connections project is on hand to help you with the use of computers. Everything you will need to know from using computers for the very first time to navigating the Internet, to accredited ECDL courses.

**Why not call in and see us at;**

- **Llangollen Library at every Tuesday between 10:00am & 12:30pm**
- **Ruthin Library at every Friday between 10:00am & 12:30pm**
- **Denbigh Library at every Friday between 1:30pm & 4:00pm**

**The project is also available at other locations throughout Denbighshire.**

If you would like any further information on any of the Denbighshire's activities or issues, please contact New Work Connections on 01745 360801 or Email; [rhyl.communityagency@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhyl.communityagency@denbighshire.gov.uk)

Welcome to Nia Haf Jones who was appointed as a NWC Project Officer in February 2012.

There are a number of exciting developments planned for the project in Gwynedd:

- **Basic & NVQ Level 1 Training in IT in the areas of Dwyfor and Meirionnydd (Arfon already has access to such services)**
- **Benefits Advice/Welfare and Financial Literacy Courses**
- **Employability Training Package which will include First Aid, Manual Handling, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, Customer Care so when major employers like ASDA who are opening a new store in Bangor in November 2012. Individuals will be appropriately skilled and will benefit from being in a better position to gain interviews for jobs as a result**
- **OCN Courses in various units such as IT/Basic Skills and more ...**

Also Anger Management and Sleep Management courses planned. The Mental Health Resource Centres have identified that this is a barrier for individuals trying to get back to the workforce who have not got their anger and their sleep patterns sorted.

Gwynedd have now established a close working relationship with the Job Centre Plus Advisors and will be arranging regular meetings to ensure the best use of resources and to work closely to establish how the support is developing.

**If you live in Gwynedd and are unemployed or economically inactive, please contact the New Work connections Team on : 01286 679388 or 01286 679585 or Email; [TaithiWaith@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:TaithiWaith@gwynedd.gov.uk)**



# Anglesey's Open Day



The Anglesey Open Day and Information Event was held at Canolfan Byron, Mona, on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Over a hundred people attended during the day, including staff from other agencies and the general public.

There were numerous stands with the mentors showing what modules they offer to participants who register on to the project.

Anglesey's wide range of modules support participants to boost their confidence and improve their social skills; preparing them to go on to education, training and employment. Modules offered include, fishing, history, music, click club, gardening, woodcraft, upholstery and arts & crafts. Everyone was given the opportunity to speak to the mentors to find more about what the project offers and to see what existing participants have already achieved. More information on the modules that we offer can be found on our website at; [www.ynysmon.gov.uk/taithiwaith](http://www.ynysmon.gov.uk/taithiwaith).

Gwilym St Paul, a participant who is currently undertaking an OCR Level 1 Certificate in Administration through Coleg Menai, was one of the participants helping on the reception during the event. He said.....

*"It was an interesting and informative day. It was very busy and it was good to see so many people come along to the event".*

Visitors also had the opportunity to view the projects DVD and speak to participants who are currently being supported by the project.

One of the biggest attractions of the day was Taran Disability Forum's Travel Training stand. They have been awarded this contract and will provide a selection of progressive driving experience modules which will involve the hire of a driving simulator from Plas Cybi. The simulator has been put into a real car which has been modified to include a built-in computer which displays a realistic moving image of roads so that a participant can have a realistic idea of a driving experience whilst learning to drive. A truly amazing concept.



Many people test drove the car and were interested in learning to drive through the programme that is offered by New Work Connections. This module will also provide support for people who want to learn to independently use public transport and for those who wish to improve their driving skills.



Circles Network who have been contracted to deliver independent living skills through the project was also present at the Open Day. Circles Network is new to the area and will be supporting participants, within the community, to be more independent.

**As the day was so successful, we will be holding a similar event next year. Thank You to all who attended the Open Day**

# Engaging with Employers



## Caernarfon Library/TALNET

By Carwyn Jones (Gwynedd NWC Business and Careers Officer)

After lengthy discussions with the team about placements the phrase 'practice what you preach' came to mind, and where better to start than Gwynedd County Council itself!

I arranged a meeting with Hywel James (the head librarian of Gwynedd) to provide a small presentation about the project and what the project is trying to achieve. I took this opportunity to question Hywel about the possibility of work placements as well as the chance to offer the department to be the first department within Gwynedd Council to be a part of the project.



Hywel agreed that the idea was great and was very supportive of the kind of work that we do. He not only agreed to be a part of the project, but agreed to provide us with two placements in the Caernarfon library. One with the book company TALNET, and the other in the general library.

It was agreed that I would work with the NWC local mentor and identified a few participants that we thought might be suitable for the placements. The staff would then choose the best suited CVs and hold an 'informal interview' and a tour of the building before confirming the placement.



Once the suitable participants were chosen, we sat down and put together an action plan to determine the skills and experiences the participant wanted to develop and strengthen in accordance to the role of the placement.

I always suggest to any employer that a trial period is a wise idea. This takes some of the strain off the employer and usually motivates the participant to do well and commit a 100% to the placement.

After the trial period there would be another review and the employer can either decide to extend the participant's contract, terminate the contract, or simply give the participant more hours. This also gives us the opportunity to monitor the individuals progress and ensure both employer and employee are happy with the placement.

(Pictures; Employees at the Caernarfon Library/TALNET)



# What we do...



Kyle is currently studying a Level 1 Business Administration Course at Rhyl College, 3 days a week. At the age of 19 he wanted to develop his work experience within an office environment which would run alongside his college course.

Kyle has a hearing impairment and wears two aids to help him hear, his goal is to be a fully qualified administrator.

In March 2011, Kyle was referred to New Work Connections for support in identifying an appropriate volunteering placement that would provide him with the relevant skills to increase his office experience.

Kyle also needed to acquire 'work and social' confidence which volunteering would certainly help with.

New Work Connections were able to support Kyle in finding a volunteering placement for 1 day a week at Marie Curie Cancer Care, Morfa Clwyd Business Centre, in Rhyl. At Marie Curie, Kyle assists with stock taking, data inputting, dealing with emails and updating their information database. Kyle says....

*"I enjoy working at Marie Curie. It helps me with my course at college and I would like to work more days when possible. I have been data inputting, stock counting and have dealt with emails, I'd like to thank New Work Connections for finding me Marie Curie".*

Simone Williams, Community Fundraising Manager at Marie Curie, Rhyl said

*"Having Kyle as a volunteer has been fantastic for us. Every day brings different things and sometimes we just never get round to doing things like databases, research and recording logs which we need to. Kyle is fabulous as he has designed a simple post log which we can complete daily, he has compiled a spreadsheet to record our outgoing and incoming sponsor forms, and has worked updating our collection tin campaign, which will allow us to pay for more nursing hours across our area. Volunteers like Kyle are invaluable to an organisation like Marie Curie Cancer Care".*



# Cleaning up for Success



## **'Cleaning up for Success!' 'Green Horizons Office Recycling Scheme'**



Staff and service users received recognition at the recent 'Association for Public Service Excellence' Award (APSE).

The APSE awards attracted over 300 submissions from nominees with over 130 organisations taking part from Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The best submissions were short listed from each category and to reach the finalist stage with our first nomination can only encourage and help us all to strive forward with this scheme and continue to keep our Council buildings *'Green and tidy'*.

Conwy County Borough Council's "Green Horizons Office Recycling Scheme" helps staff to recycle their paper, cans, glass, plastic and food waste at work, whilst simultaneously offering work experience and social interaction opportunities to the Green Horizons Collection Team, a team of service users with learning disabilities, who undertake the weekly recycling collections at 24 of the Council's sites. In the first year, the scheme helped to recycle more than 32 tonnes of the Council's waste! Pictured below is a very proud David who is one of the projects participants....



Pictured at the APSE awards event in Bristol:  
David Galbraith Williams - Job Coach/Project Worker. Kelly Bee - New Work Connections Team Leader. Stewart Heath - Service User.

# Looking after our Environment

## Green Dragon Tips

The following hints and tips are aimed at helping you to do your bit for the environment. It can be sometimes be the smaller things you do that will help minimise your impact on the environment, and also increase enjoyment of it - so we can all contribute to a 'Greener lifestyle' both in the workplace and in your home activities



### 1. Be More Active

- **Being active for 30 minutes 5 times each week helps you to be healthier and fitter. It can also help save the environment. Walking or cycling instead of taking the car reduces pollution, and going for walks will make you feel more familiar with your local environment. There are many groups which offer you the opportunity to do this for free.**

### 2. Buy Locally and Seasonally

- **Think global, act global. It is better for the environment to buy seasonal, local fruit and vegetables.**
- **Buying locally means that you are supporting local business and keeping the money in the area. It also gives you the opportunity to find out about local markets that are going on which help to support farmers and reduce food miles.**
- **Buying locally also helps you to buy seasonally. Supermarkets supply all varieties of fruit and vegetable regardless of season and origin - these travel by air and often come from developing countries.**
- **There are many fruit and vegetable in season throughout the year in the UK.**
- **Vegetable box schemes deliver fresh, local and seasonal produce to your door.**

### 3. Grow your own

- **Better than buying your fruit and vegetable, why not try and grow your own. This could be in a garden patch, a small window box or an allotment.**

For more information, check out the Green Dragon intranet site, where you can also share your ideas for environmental improvement;

<http://intranet/greendragon>



# Publicity

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New Work Connections are keen to publicise the project so as many people as possible can benefit from the support available to them. Here are some ways in which we have publicised the project so far:

- ◆ Leaflets, Posters, Websites
- ◆ Local Newspapers
- ◆ Newsletters
- ◆ Engagement at local events across all Regions
- ◆ Facebook page in development
- ◆ Internal Council Intranet

Do you know of any events that we could engage in.....get in touch.....



If you would like to be included on our mailing list to receive updates on future events or if you know of any future events that we could be involved in, please contact:

Sara Jones, Regional Administrative Officer

[sara.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk)

01745 334339

We want to ensure as many people as possible benefit from the support we offer.

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact your Local Authority on:

**Anglesey County Council**



Tel: **01407 721959** or **01407 721925**  
Fax: **01407 721969**  
Email:  
[newworkconnections@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:newworkconnections@anglesey.gov.uk)

**Denbighshire County Council**



Tel: **01745 360801** or  
Email:  
[rhyl.communityagency@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhyl.communityagency@denbighshire.gov.uk)

**Conwy County Borough Council**



Tel: **01492 576582**  
Email:  
[newworkconnections@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:newworkconnections@conwy.gov.uk)

**Gwynedd County Council**



Tel: **01286 679388** or **01286 679585**  
Fax: **01286 679 338**  
Email: [TaithiWaith@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:TaithiWaith@gwynedd.gov.uk)



Alternatively you can contact the Regional Management Team on:

**Melanie Evans, Regional Manager**  
[melanie.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk)  
01745 353494

**Helen Whitear, Regional Finance Officer**  
[helen.whitear@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.whitear@denbighshire.gov.uk)  
01824 712658

**Sara Jones, Regional Administrative Officer**  
[sara.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk)  
01745 334339

If you know of anyone that could benefit from the support of the New Work Connections project or you would like to refer yourself please contact your local New Work Connections project **NOW....**

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We want to ensure as many people as possible benefit from the support we can offer.

**Contact Us Now...**

