

HUB NEWS – AUGUST 2025

2024-2025 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

- 345 signed up to the Communities for Work Plus (CfW+) programme, and we supported 174 into employment
- 39 enrolled on the ACE (Assisted Community Employment) programme
- 135 took part on the Confidently You programme
- 260 Conwy county residents gained new skills on our training courses and pathways
- 29 took part in our Taster Sessions for specific industry sectors
- 182 young people benefited from the Young People's Employability Project
- 70 took part in the Targeted Employability Numeracy Support (TENS)

Libby Duo, Strategic Manager for Conwy Employment Hub said: "This is an impressive achievement and it is thanks to the team who have worked tirelessly over the year.

"While some of the participants on the Welsh Government's CfW+ programme have only been out of work short-term, many have been long-term unemployed and they need personalised and lengthy support to develop their confidence and skills before they are ready to consider applying for jobs. Therefore to secure work for over 50% is testament of the importance of this programme as well as the pivotal role the tailored mentoring plays.

"The Hub was also successful in securing additional funding from UKSPF Conwy Key Funds for the TENS, Confidently You and Young People's Employability Project as well as funding from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the Training Pathways and Taster Sessions. This has been invaluable in enabling us to broaden our support, and the results again demonstrate the success of this targeted approach.

"In addition to all the programmes, we held 334 drop-ins in the community as well as attended notable events including Take pART at Venue Cymru, Colwyn Bay Pride and partnered with STAND North Wales CIC to hold the third North Wales Disability Roadshow. These events put us in the heart of the community, and give Conwy county residents easy access to meet with our mentors and sign up for our services. We look forward to building on the success of the programmes and events in the year ahead."

THE YEAR AHEAD

This financial year is about building on last year's success. Communities for Work Plus, funded by the Welsh Government, will continue to be the Hub's core work, supported by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund enabling us to continue with Confidently You, ACE, the Young People's Employability Project and Training Courses and Pathways. As confirmation of this funding has only recently been received, we are currently working on the training schedule which will offer a blend of training on soft skills and employability, certificated sector-based qualifications and hands-on work experience, as well as ad-hoc training courses that sit within an individual's development needs.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Connect To Work (C2W)

One of the flagship programmes from the UK Government's Get Britain Working Strategy is a new voluntary Supported Employment programme using a proven "place, train and maintain" model to help people with health-related or complex barriers into sustainable, meaningful work.

Denbighshire County Council is the Accountable Body for North Wales, and will lead on the development of a regional delivery plan on behalf of all the Local Authorities across North Wales.

Health & Well Being Trailblazer Pilots

£10million has been dedicated to Wales to integrate health support with employment services – especially for the people who are long term sick and inactive. Denbighshire has been chosen as one of the three pilots across Wales which will run until March 2026.

North Wales Skills Portal

If you are wanting information and access to the support available to develop your workforce, then the North Wales Skills Portal is your font of knowledge!

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership's Portal is a central hub for people looking for their next opportunity and employers looking to expand their networks for local talent. It's a free-to-use platform with local events, employability resources and guidance to promote the opportunities available in the region.

The North Wales Skills Portal can be accessed [here](#).

Business Wales

Business Wales has a wealth of invaluable information for businesses of all sizes, as well as support and advice for those thinking of starting a business.

There's a comprehensive and practical range of guides to help with running a business, and a range of resources and specialist support to help grow a business, including [employing disabled people](#) and [BOSS](#), its Business Online Support Service with a range of online courses.

Business Wales also has a fact sheet detailing the benefits of recruiting ex-offenders and a Myth Busting Fact Sheet to dispel the many misconceptions about employing prison leavers. If you haven't considered employing a prison leaver now might be the time especially as many have strong work histories, while others have gained new skills and qualifications during their time in prison.

Business Wales' support is fully funded so for more details visit <https://businesswales.gov.wales/> or call 03000 6 03000.

Personal Learning Accounts

If a member of your staff is wanting to gain higher level skills, then the Personal Learning Account (PLA) is a great way for them to do this while continuing in their current work.

The flexible and part-time courses are fully funded by Welsh Government for those aged over 19; living in Wales; earning less than £32,371 (with the exception of the Digital and Net Zero courses which have no maximum wage limits); you're employed including self-employed, on a zero hours contract, agency staff or at risk of redundancy.

The courses are aligned to sectors where there are skill shortages and there are a number of courses in each sector to choose from:

- Advanced Materials and Manufacturing including technical engineers
- Digital Skills
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality including chefs, waiting and front of house staff
- Logistics in particular HGV and LGV driving
- Net Zero and Green technologies

Applying for a PLA can be via the [Working Wales website](#) or with [Grwp Llandrillo Menai](#).

Flexible Skills Programme

The Flexible Skills Programme (FSP) is a Welsh Government funded initiative that helps businesses in any sector across Wales build a stronger, more skilled workforce. Employers can apply for funding to cover up to 50% of the accredited training costs, with a maximum value of £50,000 per application.

To be eligible your business must be based in Wales, be financially solvent and you must commit to releasing staff to complete the training by the end of March 2026. Each element of training must also improve the capability or capacity of the business.

Applying is simple and the first step is to complete the Expression of Interest form which is reviewed by Welsh Government and if eligible you'll be invited to submit a detailed application form and successful applicants will be notified usually within 10 working days.

So whether you're looking to fill skills gaps, retain staff, or attract new talent, the [Flexible Skills Programme](#) can help you invest in your team's future.

Net Zero Skills Resources and Workshops

The Net Zero Skills in Construction Programme is new and free CPD training designed specifically for educators in the built environment.

Developed by the Supply Chain Sustainability School and funded by CITB it offers a series of online workshops, animations and case studies to help you confidently embed sustainability and net zero topics into your teaching. These resources have been co-designed with leading employers including Berkeley Group, Kier, Balfour Beatty and Morgan Sindall, ensuring they are up-to-date, practical and aligned with current industry needs.

The free online workshops are:

- Introduction to Sustainability – Wednesday 27 August, 1-4pm
- Science Based Targets, Net Zero & Offsetting – Friday 29 August, 1-4pm
- Designing Out Carbon – Wednesday 3 September, 1-4pm
- Understanding Waste and Resource Efficiency – Friday 5 September, 1-4pm
- Modern Methods of Construction – Wednesday 29 October, 1-4pm
- Energy Efficiency – Friday 7 November, 1-4pm

You can attend any or all of the sessions, and they're open to all educators, from tutors and lecturers to curriculum leads and careers advisors.

If you're not a member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, [join now for free](#)

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment Open Days

Are you struggling to recruit? We can help you plan and hold a bespoke Recruitment Open Day which offers candidates a personalised experience of your organisation, allowing for more targeted interactions and potentially higher chances of them securing a job and you filling your vacancies!

We've hosted two successful Recruitment Open Days for Llandudno Snowsports Centre, attracting 46 job seekers and resulting in 13 job offers. Last week, we also held an event for The Mulberry at Conwy Marina, which drew 22 attendees.

If you'd be interested in discussing this further with us, please call Alice on 07548 845679 or email employers@conwy.gov.uk.

Job Fairs

We have planned a number of Job Fairs in partnership with DWP for 2025, so if you are currently recruiting or planning to recruit later this year, put these dates in your diary:

NHS, Health & Social Care Job Fair - Thursday 25 September, 10am-1pm

St George's Hotel, Llandudno

Thursday 30 October, 11am-1pm

St George's Hotel, Llandudno

Thursday 27 November, 11am-1pm

Colwyn Bay Community Hwb

They are free for employers to attend and with between 60-70 job seekers attending each event, they are an ideal and cost-effective opportunity for businesses to connect with people that are actively looking for work.

To register or to be added on to the mailing list to receive details nearer the time, email employers@conwy.gov.uk.

EMPLOYER NEWS

Mental Health in the Workplace

In January we held a successful Conwy Business Networking Event at St George's Hotel in Llandudno which brought together experts to offer guidance on the benefits of improving employee mental health and wellbeing.

With presentations from Conwy Mind, Healthy Working Wales, RCS and Perkbox, 52 employers learnt how happy and supported employees are the true power behind business success.

Our next Conwy Business Networking Event will take place on Thursday 29 January 2026 so more information will follow nearer the time, but if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive details, please email employers@conwy.gov.uk.

Moneyworks Wales

Moneyworks Wales is a collaboration between the country's leading financial cooperatives, backed by Welsh Government, to improve the financial wellbeing of Welsh workers:

- An ethical payroll scheme that builds financial wellbeing for employees
- Free staff perk that boosts financial stability
- Savings and loans direct from salary
- Helps protect employees from payday lenders and loan sharks
- Signposting available to impartial help and advice to staff in financial difficulty
- Improves workplace morale and productivity

Setting up a payroll scheme for organisations is easy and by partnering with Moneyworks Wales you will be giving your employees access to fair and ethical finance and help them build their savings. For more information on Moneyworks Wales, visit <https://www.moneyworkswales.com/>

RCS Receives Major Funding Boost

RCS has received a funding award of over £3m to support young people with disabilities and additional needs as well as young people from ethnically minoritized communities in entering "green" careers.

Green careers are not restricted to the Net Zero/Green sector as they include any jobs that help reduce carbon emissions, restore nature and help us adapt to our changing climate, for example being a cook at a zero-waste café, a trainee engineer for a renewable energy company or a conservation officer on a nature reserve.

The 5-year project is funded through the Dormant Assets fund which is being delivered by the National Lottery Community Fund.