



CANOLBWYNT CYFLOGAETH

**CONWY**

EMPLOYMENT HUB

CYMORTH HYFFORDDIANT GRYMUSO  
SUPPORT TRAINING EMPOWERMENT

MAY 2022

# Hub News



## WELCOME

The recent news announcement that there are now more vacancies than job seekers for the first time in almost fifty years is not what businesses and organisations wanted to hear, although it might not have come as any surprise as it was very evident from the businesses exhibiting at Conwy Job Expo that recruitment is an ongoing and for some, now serious issue.

I encourage you all to undertake the Regional Skills Partnership' survey which has been commissioned by Welsh Government to provide them with an understanding of the challenges and issues as well as the opportunities and future skills needs for businesses nationally, regionally and locally. This is your chance to have your say but you only have until 31 May to respond – you'll find more details on page 2.

Conwy Job Expo, the all sector job fair we recently organised was an overwhelming success with over 70 businesses exhibiting and over 170 job seekers visiting, and the feedback from both has shown that this type of event is very much needed for the area so watch this space for future event announcements!

We hope you enjoy this edition but please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if we can help you and your business in any way.

Libby Duo, Strategic Manager

EDITION 2

## Newsletter Highlights

Skills Survey

Conwy Job Expo Success

Business and Employment Surgery

Confidently You

## HELP SHAPE TRAINING AND SKILLS PROVISION

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership is giving all employers the opportunity to influence skills policy and provision within the region.

The partnership has been commissioned by Welsh Government to undertake research in order to understand business challenges, issues and opportunities in terms of current skills and employment, as well as future skills needs.

if you would like your voice to be heard on the future of skills, training and workforce development in North Wales, please complete this short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/265JW3J>



You have until Tuesday 31 May at 12pm to respond and it will take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and your contribution will be invaluable in supporting the partnership in identifying regional priorities and key areas for development to support your business needs.

## EXTENDING OUR REACH

We've had a regular Employability feature on Sound Radio 103.1 for a while and it's been so successful that we've branched out and can now be heard on Bayside Radio on Wednesday mornings.

Both radio stations are enabling us to reach the heart of our community with Sound Radio broadcasting to East Conwy and the coastal belt between Conwy and Denbighshire, and Bayside Radio broadcasting to Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Conwy and Llanrwst.

### Would you like to join us on air?

We regularly have guests talking about their industry and the opportunities they have so if you would be interested in having a lighthearted chat on air and benefiting from some free publicity please do get in touch by dropping us an email at [CEH@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:CEH@conwy.gov.uk).



## CONWY JOB EXPO HAILED A SUCCESS

The inaugural Conwy Job Expo took place at the Barn, Eirias Events Centre in Colwyn Bay on Thursday 12 May and has been acknowledged as an outstanding success.

The event was organised by ourselves in partnership with Working Wales which is delivered by Careers Wales, the DWP and Conwy Business Support, and it brought together over 70 businesses and organisations to promote recruitment and training opportunities to over 170 job seekers and people interested in training courses and apprenticeships.

This was a multi sector job fair so as well as having exhibitors from the military, emergency services and health board, there were also a large number of businesses from hospitality, tourism, travel, charities, service providers, technology and care sectors as well as exhibitors from colleges and training companies.

Libby Duo, Strategic Manager for the Hub commented; "This was a chance to shine a light on the many jobs currently being advertised in Conwy and the surrounding area and we were delighted that so many employers took this opportunity to showcase not only their offering, but also the varied careers that these key sectors can provide."

The event was on from 2pm to 7pm and extending it past official office hours was beneficial as many job seekers wanting a new job or even a career change alongside many sixth form students were able to visit.

Working Wales delivered workshops during the event on How to Write a CV with Top Tips, and How to WOW at Interviews with Top Tips and these were all well attended and our mentors and advisers along with Working Wales' were on hand after these sessions to offer advice and support as needed.

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*Robin Millar Conservative MP for Aberconwy; Lynne Moore, Jobcentre Plus Service Leader for North Wales; Libby Duo, Strategic Manager for Conwy Employment Hub; Sam Chadburn, DWP Employer Partnership Manager for Conwy and David Jones Conservative MP for Clwyd West.*



The feedback from the organisations exhibiting was extremely positive, with 87% rating the event as “very good/excellent”. One company added “The event was excellent and there was a regular foot flow throughout” and another said; “It was an excellent event with a good mix of organisations in attendance”. Feedback from the job seekers was just as complimentary with 95% rating the event as “very good/excellent”.

Libby concluded: “I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses who exhibited as well as our partners - Working Wales, Careers Wales, DWP and Conwy Business Support – in their support in organising such a successful event.”



## CRF SIX MONTH EXTENSION

The Community Renewal Fund bid we secured last year was due to end in June, but it has been extended by the UK Government until the end of December. This is excellent news as we can continue to build on our successful Pathway training courses, while introducing a range of courses for youths.

The youth market has been seriously impacted by the pandemic resulting in many of them becoming disengaged. We are currently looking at a number of courses including martial arts and self-defence which will appeal to and enthuse those that are aged under 25. We'll bring you more news on this in the next issue.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we have been busy planning restarting our community engagement programme.

Having face to face meetings and being at the heart of the community is a fundamental aspect of our work and the support we offer in helping those that are unemployed get in to employment, or provide them with the training they require to obtain the skills they need for working.

From June, our mentors and advisers will have weekly drop-in sessions at Llanddulas Youth and Community Centre, Penmaenmawr Library, Kinmel Bay Library, Dinorben Family Centre, Llanfairfechan Library, Conwy Culture Centre, Ty Llewellyn Community Centre, Colwyn Bay Town Hall, St David's Centre, Ty Hapus and Llandudno Library.

Further details on each of the sessions can be found on our social media pages.

## BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT SURGERY

Are you a business in need of general support, help to find grants, or wanting to recruit new staff?

Are you looking for employment or training opportunities?

Our Business and Employment Surgery offers free, impartial advice on a wide range of topics as well as support for people looking to find sustainable employment.

Our surgeries currently take place every Tuesday\* between 10am and 2pm at M-Sparc Ar y Lôn, 31 Conway Rd, Colwyn Bay LL29 7AA.

Our friendly advisors, Clare and Leila will be there to answer any of your questions and help to point you in the right direction.

For more information please visit <https://bit.ly/BizSurgery>



*Leila and Clare*

*\*Surgeries run through term-time only.*

## CONFIDENTLY YOU

Confidently You is one of our CRF funded projects. This is a person centred, holistic, strengths based pre-employment support project which focuses on reducing social isolation, building resilience and increasing confidence/self-esteem. It aims to improve both physical and mental health through accessing outdoor team building activities alongside additional activities and one to one mentoring support, as well as helping develop soft, practical, financial, digital and employability skills, alongside volunteering placements and the gaining of new qualifications.

From day one, those that registered on to the project have been able to do it at their own pace.

Many recognised that they needed more support at the beginning and enrolled on the project's weekly Confidence and Wellbeing sessions run by Llandrillo College. Held twice a week, the sessions focused on building self-resilience, improving communication and developing self-worth while increasing the participant's understanding of wellbeing.

Some of the participants were digitally isolated and in partnering with Digital Community Wales we were able to provide them with internet access before enrolling them on to a Digital Inclusion Course run by Llandrillo College. The course covered all the basics from using a computer to getting online, accessing email and being able to search for and apply for jobs.



The project has also run Courageous Activities. These started off gently with open air Heritage Walks around Conwy run by Fusion, and gardening activities run by Incredible Edible at Conwy Culture Centre where participants helped with the edible/sensory garden and learnt how to pot seeds and take cuttings which many took home to continue their grow your own journey. They then progressed to Orienteering and e-bike excursions around Bodlondeb in Conwy to more courageous activities at Adventure Parc Snowdonia including zip lining, Paddleboarding and the indoor Assault Course where the team had to work together to encourage and support one another to take a gigantic leap or slide of faith – a major achievement when some of the cohort at the beginning found it extremely difficult to talk to anyone!

Confidently You is run by our Project Manager Mel Davis who takes up the story: "The first Courageous Activity had five participants but as the schedule has progressed and the participants' confidence has grown more and more are signing up so on average we have about 14 at each activity. There are a still a few that come along to spectate but they are there because of the friendships and team spirit that have developed.

"In a relatively short time, each person has grown in confidence and has built strong relationships with other group members, which has enabled them to work as a community and have challenging conversations which in itself is a great result."

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Other sessions have included a Creative Writing Course run by Phil Bowen, poet, playwright and author and a spoon Woodcarving session at Hendre Hall, which despite quite a few minor cuts has proved such a success that numbers for the next session are at an all time high.



To date, Mel has 41 people registered on the project, and 20 awaiting registration. Three participants have started work and two have secured volunteer placements. The Government's target was 30 registrations, a target Mel met in the first two months so with seven months still to run it is safe to say that Confidently You is an exceptional triumph!



## WELLBEING WALK

Some of our team met up for a brisk walk along Colwyn Bay promenade on Friday 20 May to take part in our monthly Wellbeing Walk which concluded in a well-earned healthy Brunch in Bryn Williams at Porth Eirias.

These walks started after the lockdowns and were a great opportunity for the Conwy Employment Hub to keep the team spirit going and provide an opportunity to chat about work at a safe distance when office meetings weren't allowed. For many it also helped them on their way to reaching their healthy 10,000 steps a day!



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