



nextstep update for Shropshire Telford & Wrekin

Information for nextstep managers, advisers
and other services supporting adults in Shropshire



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Careers Guidance • In-depth jobsearch advice • Access to careers software & resources
Identification of transferable skills & career change • Advice on learning

Free, impartial, confidential advice for adults 20+, with no or few* qualifications

* below Level 2

Congratulations! We've done it!

We have reached **100%** of our advice target in the first seven months of this contract!!

I am absolutely delighted and would like to say a big **Thank You** to all of you who went the extra mile in February!

I also want to take this opportunity to give you an overview of what was said at the recent annual IAG conference in London (28 February 08). The conference covers all aspects of IAG for adults, including nextstep, imbedded IAG (e.g. IAG provided by a college as part of their learner support), IAG for employees etc. The main speakers were from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP), which is responsible for jobcentreplus and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), which leads the LSC.

The emphasis was very much on how much has been achieved to date and how much more needs doing, in the context of the Leitch report on Skills. Please see page 2 for my summary

Regards, Marion Versluijs, nextstep STW coordinator

It's easy to get in touch or refer to nextstep:

People living or working in Shropshire can call/text 07967 226683.

Likewise, for Telford call 01952 382946.

Visit nextstepstw.org.uk



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“Moving towards establishing the new adult advancement and careers service”

- New **Adult Advancement & Careers Service** in 2010/11
- nextstep 2008-2010 will be an ‘**enriched**’ nextstep service, leading up to the new service – procurement process is underway and should be completed by the middle of June.
- 10 regional contracts, with pilot activity in specific locations to test elements of new service (WM region will be one of two ‘**joint service**’ pilots)
- Universal service, with more support for priority groups, broadening the support available for groups currently not benefiting from nextstep services
- Full national roll-out of **skills accounts** in 2015, a life-time mechanism to support people into learning and ultimately into sustainable work.
- UK Vocational qualification reform to establish a new ‘Qualification & Credit Framework (**QCF**)’, where qualifications are based on flexible combinations of units.

Marion Versluijs: “The conference provided information on strategic direction. It raised more questions than answers about the future. The details are yet to unfold.

At the same time, the Minister for Skills, David Lammy, announced that in order to achieve these ambitious targets, the government has allocated more money for IAG services.”

Targets shared by DWP & DIUS:

95% of adults to have the basic skills of functional literacy & numeracy.

More than 90% of adults to have at least at Level 2 qualification

1.9 million more Level 3 attainments

To have 500,000 people a year in apprenticeships

More than 40% of adults to have a HE Qualification.

80% employment rate

Focus on

- **Worklessness**
- **Retention & Progression at work**



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Young people encouraged to stay in education ...

.... The Education & Skills Bill is passing to parliament. It's paving the way for proposals that by 2013, all 17 year olds, and by 2015, all 18 year olds, are participating in some form of education or training.

... The bill also proposes that the Learning & Skills Council will remain responsible for provision for people over the age of 19.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/educationandskills.html>

Re: Skills Sector Councils (SSCs)

These are the employer-led, independent bodies that cover specific industry sectors in the UK.

One of their tasks is to supply labour market information to IAG services.

25 SSCs are currently forming a network. The Skills Sector Development Agency (SSDA), which was responsible for developing the SSCs, will close on 31 March 08.

The SSC network remains in tact. www.ssda.org.uk

Network meeting: 13 March

Hadley Learning
Centre, TF1 5NU
9:30-11:30 am

Presentation on
**Lifelong
Learning
Network
(LLN)**

Behind the scenery

It's self-assessment time again for the nextstep network!

Rob Hedison is looking to organise a one-off adviser focus group to have your views about your nextstep activities. He'll be in touch shortly.

Development for nextstep advisers:

14 March: Working with ex-offenders

Nextstep in a nutshell ...

- Career Guidance
- In-depth jobsearch skills
- Independent info on courses and training
- Help with CV & Interview preparation
- Identifying transferable skills for career changers