

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2005

PERSONNEL SERVICES: TRAINING SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report describes the activities of Personnel Services' Training Services section during the period 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the terms of this report.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report advises of the operations of the Training Services section of Personnel Services during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

3. PROGRESS REPORT

Skillseekers

The Skillseekers initiative, funded by Scottish Enterprise Tayside, is intended to enable school leavers, principally aged 16-18, to obtain Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) while in employment or on work experience placements.

Another element of the Skillseekers programme is Get Ready for Work – aimed at those young people who are eligible for Skillseekers but who have special needs eg literacy/numeracy, behavioural problems, homelessness, lack of social skills.

- The programme operates throughout the Angus area. Currently 142 young people are training with local employers (including 48 in Council departments) over 75% of whom are currently employed by the host organisation.
- During the period a total of 210 young people participated in the programme, including 92 new starts (37 within Council departments).
- Seventy-one people left the programme of whom 44 (62%) achieved a vocational qualification at Level II or above and 40 (56%) progressed into permanent employment (seven in Council departments).

New Deal 18-24 – Environment Task Force (ETF)

Funded by Jobcentre Plus, the ETF programme is one of four New Deal options for unemployed individuals on Jobseekers Allowance who are aged 18-24 years and who have been unemployed for at least six months.

Training Services' contractual target is that 40% of those leaving the programme must progress into jobs.

- A total of 109 people participated in the programme including 93 new starts. Thirty-three individuals gained employment with local employers. As at 31 March 2005, 16 people were on the programme.
- As at 31 March the job entry rate was 49%.

New Deal 25+

Funded by Jobcentre Plus, this programme aims to assist individuals on Jobseekers Allowance who are aged 25 or over and who have been unemployed for more than 18 months into sustainable employment.

Training Services' contractual target is that 40% of those leaving the programme must progress into jobs.

- One hundred and thirty six individuals have participated in the programme, 36 of whom progressed into employment. As at 31 March 2005, 25 were on the programme undergoing a variety of training and development programmes to assist them into employment.
- As at 31 March the job entry rate was 43%.

Programme Centre

In December, Training Services successfully tendered for a contract with Jobcentre Plus to provide a Programme Centre service within Angus. Through this Programme Centre, Training Services will provide advice, assistance and training to an all-aged group of unemployed clients, to help them into jobs. This contract, which addresses the needs of individuals who have been unemployed for less time than those on the New Deal, runs from 28 February 2005 until 31 March 2007.

Training Services' contractual target is that of 50% of those leaving the programme must progress into jobs.

- During the period 50 people used the Programme Centre and there were no leavers.

Training For Work (TFW)

This is a Scottish Enterprise Tayside funded programme, for individuals aged 25 and over who have been unemployed for at least six months.

- Seven participants have started on TFW since 1 April 2004 with an average occupancy of three people.
- Four people have achieved the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

IT Training

IT training is provided both to participants on the various programmes managed by Training Services and to Council employees. This includes training in specific packages and also training and testing towards the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

- During the period 127 employees started training towards the ECDL qualification. Of these 104 were part of the third corporately funded 'Priority Group'. A total of 137 employees achieved the qualification during the period, 102 of whom were part of the Priority Groups (7 from Priority Group 1, 71 from Priority Group 2 and 24 from Priority Group 3).

- A total of 362 training days were delivered for Council staff in the range of Microsoft Office packages e.g. Word, Excel, Access.
- A total of seven individuals from the Social Work Department received training leading to the achievement of module 2 of the ECDL (Using the Computer and Managing Files), to assist with the introduction of the new Care First system. Of the individuals who started, five achieved the module.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

HR/PersMan

NOTE No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.