

DYW

ORKNEY
Developing the
Young Workforce

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome Message

Welcome to this, the first issue of the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Orkney newsletter.

This newsletter has been developed for employers to keep you updated about DYW Orkney's work and let you know how you can get involved.

This issue introduces you to the DYW Orkney Board, gives an update on the Orkney Careers Fair and our work in relation to work placements.

For those of you who do not know what DYW is, it has been introduced to help produce better qualified, work ready and motivated young people with the skills relevant to modern employment opportunities, both as employees and entrepreneurs of the future.

DYW Orkney is one of 21 regional employer-led groups who are responsible for improving links between education and work and increasing opportunities for young people.

Locally, we will act as a link between employers and local schools and we have a particular focus on developing the right skills for Orkney's employment market, paying particular attention to the needs of emerging sectors.

We hope you will join us on this exciting journey.

Rachel Scarth
Project Manager – DYW Orkney

The DYW Orkney Regional Group Board are:

Edgar Balfour (Chair), Orkney Food and Drink and Craft

Roy Brown (Vice Chair), Orkney Aggregates Ltd.

Gail Anderson, Voluntary Action Orkney

Davie Campbell, Orkney PC / Kirkwall BID

Richard Darbyshire, Scottish Sea Farms

Dawn Flett, Albert Hotel

Mike Gardens, Orkney Craft Association

Paul Gellately, Northlink

Stephen Kemp, Orkney Builders (Contractors) Ltd

Dave McCallum, Skills Development Scotland

Glen McLellan, National Oilwell Varco

Julie Nicol, NHS Orkney

Bill Ross, Orkney College UHI

David Scarth, NFUS Orkney Branch

Andy Tennant, Tesco

Wilfred Weir, Education, Leisure and Housing, OIC

The board are also supported by Rachel Scarth, Project Manager and Natasha Stacey, Admin Assistant



Pictured are some of the DYW Orkney Board.

Orkney Careers Fair

Along with Skills Development Scotland, we hosted the Orkney Careers Fair at the Pickaquoy Centre last month, which was attended by over 700 adults and young people from across the county.



The Careers Fair was attended by pupils in S4, S5 and S6 at the local schools.

A total of 62 exhibitors were on hand to speak to those visiting the event and we were delighted that more than half of those were local employers.

Employers exhibited alongside training providers and universities, giving those who came along to the event the chance to access a range of careers, education and training information.

Feedback from all of those attending has been very positive, with young people telling us they appreciated being able to learn about the range of careers on offer in Orkney, as well as within individual businesses.

We hope to hold a similar event in future years, with smaller scale events throughout the year. We really want to include as many of the different sectors and businesses available in Orkney in our activities. If you would like to get involved in future events please let us know.

Work Placement Database

One of the priorities for DYW Orkney is ensuring all young people have access to high quality work placements. This means developing a consistent approach across Orkney which will enable young people to develop new skills and experiences which will help them when they leave school.

We are currently working on a suite of documentation to support employers, schools and young people during work placements. These documents will support the development of skills while on placement and ensure the process is meaningful for everyone involved. We hope to have these finalised soon and will keep you updated on their development.

We have also undertaken some work to review the current database of employers who are able to take on work placements. You will be on this database if you have taken on a work placement in the past and undertook the required health and safety checks.

Those who are currently on the list will shortly be contacted by the project team and asked to complete a short survey confirming they are happy to continue taking on work placements, and ensuring the contact details we have are correct. This piece of work will ensure that the information

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available to schools is accurate and up-to-date.

The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete and we ask that all employers who are contacted take the time to complete the survey.

Getting businesses into schools

Another area we are focused on is getting employers into schools to speak directly to young people about the different businesses and careers that exist in Orkney.

We want to help young people make the link between what they are learning and the world of work; make them aware of a variety of careers and, encourage them to think about staying in, or returning to, Orkney in the future.

Accessing the industry experience that exists in Orkney will also be beneficial for teachers and could help support the curriculum.

If you would like to make a link with local schools, please let us know what sort of thing you would like to do. It could be anything from giving a classroom talk, inviting classes to see around your workplace or helping develop CV writing and interview skills.

If you let us know what you're able to offer we will let the schools know so they can fit this into their curriculum. We may also approach you to take part in events we are organising with the local schools.

Social Media



We are currently on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - find us @OrkneyDYW. If you don't already, please follow us and keep up-to-date with what we're up to.

As well as posting updates about our activities, we include a range of blog posts and job advertisements. If you have any jobs suitable for young people that you'd like help promoting, or an idea for a blog piece, please let us know.

Mailing list

This first newsletter has been sent to a variety of employers, if you do not wish to receive future newsletters, please let us know and we will remove you from our mailing list.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about DYW Orkney, please pass this onto them and encourage them to get in touch with us.

We'd also love your feedback on this newsletter – let us know if the information we're sharing is useful, or if there are other things you'd like to hear about.

Contact Us

We'd be delighted to hear from you and discuss how DYW Orkney can support you as an employer.

Email: OrkneyDYW@uhi.ac.uk
Call: (01856) 569 352