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WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT: IMPROVING YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPLOYABILITY

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PROJECT AIMS

Understand

- What does an 'employable' young person look like?
- What skills and attributes are employers looking for when they recruit a young person?

Equip

- Train young people with Action Research skills.
- Increase young people's confidence.
- Improve young people's understanding of what employers want.

PROJECT APPROACH

Part of L&W's role as UK Co-ordinator of the European Agenda for Lifelong Learning.

- x40 young people trained as Action Researchers (including 9 with learning difficulties).
- Action Researchers conducted interviews in pairs with over 40 local employers, discussed and identified findings, fed back to L&W.



Prince's Trust



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EMPLOYER VIEWS

Employers like young people...

“I never look at a young person and say no. Young people have a lot to offer. We like to give them a chance to prove themselves and do well. They often surprise you with what they have to offer!”

Employers want...



A positive attitude

Show enthusiasm, commitment and energy.



'Soft skills'

Including **communication, problem-solving, time management, teamwork** and **working well under pressure**.



'Hard skills'

Sometimes specific to certain jobs but almost all employers highly value **literacy, numeracy** and **digital skills**.



Experience

A range of different types of experience, particularly work experience and volunteering.



Qualifications

Even though not all the qualities they are looking for can be measured through qualifications, qualifications are valued by employers.

EMPLOYER VIEWS



OUTCOMES FOR EMPLOYERS

- **Satisfaction** at giving young people practical advice to be more competitive in the job market.
- **Business benefits** from explaining their industry, company, recruitment processes, and skills they value.
- **Useful feedback** and insights from a young person's perspective.

IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'

- Practical skills (research, communication, and team work).
- Breaking down barriers with employers.
- Improved understanding of what employers are looking for.
- Confidence in interviews.
- Links with employers – work experience.
- Jobs!

I would definitely research more and work harder on a CV to be more proactive.

I'm going to be looking for another placement. The information I got from the project will help me to look for that placement and to sell myself better.

It's made me more confident making that initial contact.

I know that they are willing to employ younger people.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS



PROJECT RESOURCES

Practical and accessible information and resources have been developed for young people and providers
– feel free to use these!

www.whatemployerswant.org

‘Guide for Young People...’

www.learningandwork.org.uk/sites/niace_en/files/resources/What%20Employers%20Want.pdf

BENEFITS TO PROVIDERS

- New approach to supporting young people to develop employability skills.
- New resources to share and use with unemployed young people.
- New and stronger relationships with local employers.
- Up-to-date knowledge about what local employers are looking for.

TOP TIPS

1. Use this approach to expand and develop your engagement with local employers.
2. Involve young people in choosing which employers to invite to participate.
3. Ensure young people a) ask questions which are most meaningful to their situation, b) have time to practice before meeting employers.
4. Bring young people together to discuss and identify findings, and reflect.
5. Support young people to share the findings in a creative way.

This Year (2016/17)

- L&W working with partner organisations throughout the UK – particular emphasis on supporting young care leavers and carers.
 - Communities First
 - Barnardo's
 - Drive Forward
 - Sheffield Futures (Talent Match)

THANK YOU QUESTIONS

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