

Funding for Year Three

Due to its successes in the initial two years of the project, The West Lancs Challenge has now been funded until March 2014. In its final meeting, the LSP were happy to approve the carry forward of significant cost savings which, together with additional funding provided by West Lancs CVS, will enable a third year of the project to go ahead.

In addition, a donation of £25,000 from the Sir Douglas Glover Trust fund has been pledged. This money will be administered by the Challenge and used to target some specific areas of work. West Lancs Borough Council continues its support for the Challenge project and will shortly be recruiting a part time Business Engagement Officer as well as an apprentice who will both take an important roll in supporting the activity of the project. The Council is also providing £12,000 to support the start of additional apprenticeship placements in the area.

Supported Apprenticeship Scheme YOUng Citizen Finalist

Tuesday 26th March 2013 saw local girl Jennifer Conder, pick up an 'Commended' award on behalf of her YOU Project Team members as a finalist in the High Sheriff of Lancashire's Young Citizen Awards.

As part of the Supported Apprenticeship Scheme, West Lancs CVS and the Partnership Team joined forces to get a group of young people together to work on a community project.

A charity very close to Jennifer's heart is Myeloma UK and the group agreed to focus their efforts on raising funds and awareness for this very worthwhile cause.

The team engaged with local business and orchestrated the "Go Orange" event which they ran in October at the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale. The event raised over £1800 and Myeloma UK have now adopted the concept as part of their national fund raising campaign. On receiving the award, Jennifer said, "The Big Lottery funded YOU project has been a fantastic experience that has increased my personal confidence and motivation, as

well as giving our group the chance to help many people who suffer with Myeloma. The fact they are picking up our idea nationally is amazing. If anyone is out of work/college and wanting support to move forward contact the YOU project on www.youthontheup.org.uk"



New Year New You Event January 2013



West Lancs Challenge partners hosted an event at Skelmersdale Library on 10th January, supported by local training providers and employers. Nearly 60 young people attended the event and had the opportunity to apply for vacancies as well as exploring other options, such as training or apprenticeships, that might be available to them. They were able to meet representatives from the college, other training providers and employers, all in one location. It was an excellent networking opportunity and very positive feedback was

received from those attending. There was a free prize draw for those attending and one lucky young person won an IPOD.

Passport holders transform local Scout Headquarters in Lathom

A group of unemployed young people from Ormskirk and surrounding areas have rolled up their sleeves to help the local community and refurbished the inside of the 30th District Scout HQ in Lathom.

Young people completing the Prince's Trust Team programme with West Lancashire College sign-up to the Challenge Passport. This helps give them the skills and confidence to find a job through activities such as helping in the local communities, fundraising and practical work; building their skills to help them attain their ambitions.

The 13 young people have been working on the Scout HQ for two weeks and have cleaned the building and surrounding area, painted the main hall, corridors and entrance hall as well as planting bulbs in the garden area at the front of the building. Funds were raised by bag packing in Morrison's Ormskirk on Monday 25 March, allowing them to purchase the supplies needed for the development.



“All the young people should be very proud of themselves for the amount of work they have carried out during the two weeks. The work the students have done is tremendous. Their teamwork has been fantastic and it's been a great learning experience for all involved. The difference in the hut is fantastic and just goes to show what you can achieve – it's a transformation and we're so thankful for the time and effort the team have put in.”

Tony Charnock, Chairman of Ormskirk District Scouts

For more information on the course or future team programmes, please call Adam Eeles on 01695 52414 or email adam.eeles@westlancs.ac.uk.

For further information about The Prince's Trust, visit www.princes-trust.org.uk or call 0800 842 842

For further details on courses and training available at West Lancashire College please contact the Learner Gateway on 01695 52300 or visit www.westlancs.ac.uk

Apprenticeship Event A Success!!

Bringing together businesses and individuals from across the area over 200 visitors turned out to West Lancashire College to make the annual Apprenticeship event a huge success!

On the evening, there were individuals looking for work and businesses looking to take on apprentices. Supported by the Challenge, the event's aim was to match jobseekers to employers and to raise awareness of Apprenticeships as a viable route into permanent employment.



Director of Home Instead West Lancashire and Chorley, Gail Godson said "We were finding it hard to recruit to our vacancies, but after tonight we've got an interview list and individuals have spoken to us about their applications and CVs. The event has been really worthwhile and it makes a big difference when jobseekers can speak to employers directly".

Asa Gordon, Head of Business Solutions at West Lancashire College said "The event has been a huge success and we're pleased with the response from both individuals and

employers. We will now work with the businesses in order to provide an effective vacancy matching service".

If you missed the apprenticeship event and are looking to take on an apprentice then it's not too late to check if you're eligible for the £1500 government grant. Contact the West Lancashire Business Engagement Team on 01695 52490.



West Lancashire Council for
Voluntary Service

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West Lancashire
Local Strategic Partnership

For more information on the West Lancashire Challenge please call:

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