

The Prince's Trust



Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust is providing life-changing opportunities to young people and an accessible work force for employers. It has been piloting its 'Get Into' initiatives in Northern Ireland for the past year with overwhelming success.

The 'Get Into' programme is run in industry sectors across the UK such as construction, retail and sports and leisure.

The 'Get Into' courses were developed in response to Prince's Trust research which showed young people who often felt held back in life by their lack of skills, experience and qualifications but wanted worthwhile jobs which offered them career opportunities. This new initiative therefore aims to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop their practical skills and move into employment.

The 'Get Into' programme is run in industry sectors across the UK such as construction, retail and sports and leisure. The programme is delivered via a variety of corporate partners related to those industries in order to provide relevant work experience.

A strong economy and relatively low unemployment continue to mask the fact that there are still many young people in Northern Ireland who are facing economic disadvantage and low prospects of employment. In 2005 there were 6.3% of young people from 16-24 year olds who were unemployed but nearly a fifth of young people in Northern Ireland in that age group were classified as not in employment, education or training.

This is not just an issue for the young people themselves but for the economic health of Northern Ireland as a whole. 'The Cost of Exclusion'

report published in 2007 by Prince's Trust warns that youth unemployment is costing Northern Ireland's economy more than £1.6 million a week in lost productivity and this is without taking into account those who are classified as inactive for other reasons.

Together with the half-a-million-a-week the government pays out in Jobseeker's Allowance, youth economic activity is costing Northern Ireland millions of pounds each year.

The 'Get into' Scheme is also a great resource for the employers involved as it provides selection, relevant training and support to the employer as well as support for the young people involved.

Patton Group Chairman, David Patton, whose company has been involved with the Get into Construction programme, is enthusiastic about the scheme having taken on young Ballymena man David Orr.

"Construction needs hardworking young people like David, to take up the challenges and meet the opportunities represented by the current boom. Patton Group is willing and has seen the benefits of training and recruitment from sources like 'Get into Construction', which release the previously untapped potential in our young people." ►



David Orr on site on the 'Get into Construction Programme'