

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Future Jobs Fund Proves a Great Success and Wins Regional Award**

After successfully receiving funding from the Government's Future Jobs Fund, the West Essex Partnership (consisting of Epping, Harlow and Uttlesford Local Strategic Partnerships') bid has exceeded expectations by supporting over 80 unemployed individuals in securing paid meaningful employment and has won runner-up for the 'Youth Employment Award' at the East of England Jobcentre Plus Awards 2010.

Over the last six months, the partnership has been working with Jobcentre Plus across the West Essex area in moving unemployed 18-24 year old people claiming Job Seekers Allowance for six months or more into a work placement with over 25 public, community and voluntary sector organisations.

Being nominated and winning an award is a great achievement for the programme and to be recognised regionally shows that the partnership efforts are going some way in benefiting the lives of the local community in providing job opportunities.

Cllr Di Collins, Chair of One Epping Forest said "The programme has proved a great success across the three districts and helped unemployed young people at a difficult time. The Future Jobs Fund provides real job opportunities for an age group who find it hard competing for jobs in the current economic climate due to a lack of work experience and will have provided the equivalent of 87 years worth of meaningful work".

"Being recognised at the Jobcentre Plus Awards highlights the positive impact that the programme has made and that the Partnership is working together successfully in bringing together a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations in an effort to reduce unemployment and provide much needed experience in the labour market".

The Future Jobs Fund programme delivered across West Essex has enabled young people finding it hard to obtain meaningful employment, gain experience, skills and training that will go a long way in supporting their future career aspirations and be better placed to compete in the current labour market.

The West Essex Partnership Future Jobs Fund programme is providing job opportunities for over 170 unemployed people across the Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford districts throughout 2010 – 2011. Having already over achieved in placing 81 unemployed people into work, the programme is continuing in providing up to 95 real job vacancies for young people.

Chris Benson from Loughton who is taking part in the Future Jobs Fund commented, "It is extremely tough for young people to take the first step into employment following their education regardless of how well they may have done to achieve their qualifications. The Future Jobs Fund really helps young

people to take that first step and begin building up the experience they will need.”

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The West Essex Partnership brings together the district Local Strategic Partnerships One Epping Forest, Harlow 2020 and Uttlesford Futures.

The Future Jobs Fund was a government funded programme, as part of the Young Persons’ Guarantee. Aimed at 18-24 years olds who have been out of work for nearly a year providing them with an offer of a job, work experience or training lasting at least six months.

The fund is run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and with input from Jobcentre Plus and Regional Government Offices in England.

The West Essex Partnerships’ Future Jobs Fund engages the support of employers, Employ-Ability and Harlow College to offer additional support in providing training, guidance and experience in a variety of areas that will be of benefit to individual’s future career goals.

The Jobcentre Plus Awards 2010, organised by Jobcentre Plus and open to all employers to celebrate the successes of business activities in the local area is held across all regions of England and Wales.

The Youth Employment Award is awarded to an employer who has demonstrated clear commitment and action to help young people back into work. The West Essex Partnership was awarded runner-up in this category.

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