

Road Map to Employment and Skills in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft:

Wrap report

Recommendation 15 event

The Recommendation 15 event identified the need for 4 specialist networks in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft to support pathways into employment:

- Specialist support
- Upskilling the employed
- Jobseeker support
- Information, Advice and Guidance

It was felt that new structures were not necessarily needed but that people needed to know how and where to access current networks. Knowledge of these was 'bitty'.

A Recommendation 15 mini site was set up on the Norfolk Unites website (www.norfolkunites.org.uk/rec-15/) to collate all information. Located here can be found the report from the original event identifying the need for follow up work, results of which are presented here.

The Networks

Specialist support

Suffolk County Council and Great Yarmouth College will be delivering recommendations 9-11 within this overall Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft implementation review. Recommendations 9-11 look at developing support networks for organisations working with those with additional needs. Whilst Recommendation 9 and 10 are only the 'transition years' of up to 25, Rec. 11 is post 16. It is felt there is scope within this to signpost delegates, and any other individual, interested in a specialist support network to access the Recommendation 9-11 elements. There are specific organisations providing other specific specialist support services (e.g. Meridian East and United Response and 'Mental Health') and it is envisaged that smaller organisations are already aware of that support should it be required. It is not practical to try to instigate networks in each single sub-set, therefore the forwarding of this work to that of Recommendations 9-11 will be the action.

Action

Delegates – or any other individuals – interested in accessing a support network for those with additional needs to engage with the Recommendation 9-11 work. See www.norfolkunites.org.uk/rec-15/ for further information.

Upskilling the employed

The employment and skills sub-group of Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney Learning Community closely match this need.

Action

Any individual wishing to access a support network to aid their organisation in supporting clients to up skill, please see www.norfolkunites.org.uk/rec-15/.

Jobseekers support

Two existing networks have been identified that will directly address this need. Facilitated by Jobcentre Plus in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft (as part of a Suffolk wide forum), anyone providing benefits advice and support to clients can find out the latest information as well as access peer support.

Action

Anyone interested in accessing a 'Jobseekers support' network in order to better understand the system and so to better support their clients please see:

www.norfolkunites.org.uk/rec-15/

Recommendations

- Great Yarmouth to consider elements of Lowestoft's Terms of Reference for Jobcentre Plus support network
- For individuals to be able to attend either Great Yarmouth or Lowestoft Jobcentre Plus support network
- Consideration of whether the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Jobcentre Plus support networks could work more closely

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Previously this essentially was the Next Steps network, which is no longer in existence. For any organisation wishing to access a peer support network as regards IAG, these organisations can be located on the MATRIX website, as any organisation delivering IAG must be MATRIX accredited.

Action

- Organisations currently delivering IAG with MATRIX accreditation to locate fellow providers for support, when required, via MATRIX website
- For organisations not yet MATRIX accredited and delivering more informal IAG to be aware of MATRIX and those organisations currently MATRIX accredited as sources of possible support.
- For both, see www.norfolkunites.org.uk/rec-15/.

Recommendations

If IAG providers deem it appropriate, they will be able to contact each other and facilitate their own network meetings. Norwich City Council, via the Norwich Learning City, facilitate a similar forum in Norwich, for example.

Other recommendations

A skills strategy for Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft to enable strategy to align itself to meet the economic needs of the area.

Case studies

A good news update from one of the case studies delegates looked at during the event. Rob before was a 19 year old male who wanted a career in football.

"He has really got motivated and proactive in accessing support through careers advice etc. He has now been accepted into 6th form college and is looking to explore a professional job route!" – Rob's support worker.

Information taken from the event to suggest avenues of support to Rob were passed onto the support worker after the event, so many thanks for everyone's contributions here.