

BLACKPOOL'S YOUNG PEOPLE 'GET OFF THE BENCH' TO LEARN NEW SKILLS

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Aspiring young football coaches of the future, seeking to follow in the footsteps of Sir Alex Ferguson or Simon Grayson, are being invited to 'Get Off the Bench' at a special training session being held in Blackpool from 5 November.

Organised by The Prince's Trust in partnership with Connexions and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West, the session is specifically targeted at young people that are not currently in training, education or employment and will take place during the week of 5 November with sessions at Seasiders and Blackpool's first team training ground.

'Get Off the Bench' will provide an exciting insight into the world of football coaching with inspirational tuition from coaches at Blackpool FC and Bolton Wanderers.

With opportunities to meet the players, the week long session promises to be a real confidence boost for the young people participating, and will provide them with new skills, new friends and a renewed focus on their career.

The session is one of a number of practical 'energisers' being run in the town over the coming months, which will engage with young people and get them back into work, training or education to further their career aspirations.

Sessions to date have offered a range of opportunities including a week of creative skills with young people learning skills such as art and acting. The basics of catering and cooking have also been on offer to young people keen to be the next Jamie Oliver.

This energiser approach has proved to be a big success with places filling up quickly as Blackpool's young people grab the opportunity to make the most of these unique learning experiences.

The energiser sessions are planned to continue, with future sessions already planned for creative media and child, health and social care. Young people can attend more than one energiser to get a range of experiences and will be supported throughout by guidance from Connexions Personal Advisors on their future education and employment choices.

The ultimate aim is for young people to make positive choices for their next steps into a job, e2e (entry to employment) or an Apprenticeship to get them on the right track for future success.

Bill Smedley, energiser co-ordinator for The Prince's Trust comments, "Blackpool has been identified as a key area in the United Kingdom that has a high number of young people between 16 – 18 that are outside training and employment. The energiser courses aim to inspire this group and highlight potential future careers where young people would like future training and/ or employment."

Janet Jackson, Partnership Manager for the LSC in Lancashire is delighted with the response to date. She commented, "These sessions provide a wealth of new opportunities for young people to maximise their potential. Thanks to some excellent partnership work in the area, young people who express an interest are benefiting quickly and making significant steps towards brighter futures for themselves and towards the LSC's vision of a world class workforce for the area."

Young people can find out more about participating in energiser sessions, including 'Get Off the Bench' by contacting Becci Rimmer / Sue Lovatt 01253 292878 or Diane Wardle at Connexions 01253 754832 / 755709.

Ends

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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