

Are Old Fashioned Notions Holding Back Bright Young Things?

Old-fashioned notions of Apprenticeships could be holding the North West's youngsters back from developing the skills they need for a successful, high-flying career.

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That's the concern of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West, which points out that Apprenticeships are still one of the most successful vehicles for raising skill levels and helping young people to achieve their career goals - despite some people thinking that Apprenticeships are only available in more traditional trades!

Over 20,000 youngsters are currently training as part of an Apprenticeship in the North West.

Explains Paul Holme, Regional Director of Skills for the LSC North West, "The perception of Apprenticeships as training that only prepares you for a 'trade' is an outdated notion. People who associate them only with blue collar jobs are sadly mistaken. In fact, Apprenticeships are used to train youngsters in a wide range of occupations, from traditional skills like joinery through to twenty-first century careers like developing IT systems and communication technologies."

Apprenticeships combine training, study, work and earning a wage and the LSC points to Apprenticeships as an important element in bridging the skills gaps the UK faces over the next few years.

Paul Holme continues, "There are currently around 3.2 million unqualified adults in work in the UK, but by 2020 it is estimated that there will only be around 600,000 unskilled jobs available, so upskilling the workforce has to be a priority. Apprenticeships provide an ideal way to meet this challenge and at this time of year, when so many young people and their

parents are anxiously awaiting GCSE and 'A' level results, it's a good idea to really think about career goals and the training options available.

“For many, an Apprenticeship is an ideal solution and helps to build confidence in a work environment at an earlier age, putting money in their pocket and giving them all the skills they need for a successful career.”

For more information on Apprenticeships, log on to www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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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