**YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS IN TEES VALLEY**

Institute for Local Governance

Friday 22nd May 2015

Redcar and Cleveland College, Corporation Road, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 1EZ

09.30am – 1.00pm

* **Producing a strategy to match the skills and needs of employers in Tees Valley with the skills and aspirations of young people** is not a straight-forward issue. Much of the locally-owned institutional support for such an initiative has been eroded with the loss of once generously funded organisations such as Connexions Tees Valley, The Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council and Business Link Tees Valley.

The willingness of Tees Valley to tackle skills issues for young people is, arguably, stronger than ever through **the work of its Local Enterprise** **Partnership, Tees Valley Unlimited**, local authorities and the promise of the establishment of a **Tees Valley Combined Authority** to integrate effort across the areas five unitary local authorities.

This seminar aims to explore the complexities surrounding ‘supply’ and ‘demand’ issues operating in and around the Tees Valley region. Speakers have been brought together to open debate on:

- **projected employer labour demand** over the next few years;

- **how employers’ skills needs can be met** through local schools, colleges and universities; and

- how **the potential of young people** (especially those from less advantaged backgrounds) can be harnessed.

* **Marshalling the aspirations and developing the employability of young people (aged 15 – 29) who have experienced significant periods of time not in employment**, education or training (NEET) is a controversial and challenging area of discussion. Even when money is available to tackle the issue, solutions are often difficult to produce. Being positive about the prospects of these young people is, nevertheless, vital for the area economically and socially.
* This is reflected in the Government’s recent launch of its first **calls for Tees Valley projects under the 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund** **(ERDF)** and **European Social Fund (ESF)**. Projects are being sought to maximise SME job creation, but central to the concerns of this seminar is **the Youth Employment Initiative for ESF across Tees Valley**.\*\*

Shorter term initiatives, however valuable, only provide part of the solution – this seminar also aims to debate the **roles of private sector, education sector and third sector organisations** in tackling more widely skills challenges in Tees Valley over the next few years.

* The seminar will seek to **engage the views and experiences of participants** during the course of the event.

\*\* The Youth Employment Initiative aims to deliver support over a three year period to young people aged 15 – 29 (subject to European Commission approval) who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, Key elements include: **Transition Mentoring for Young People** – providing wrap around support for all young people who are NEET; **Personalised Education, Employment and Enterprise Pathways** – using innovative solutions to provide support for young people who struggle to achieve using only mainstream education services; **Route-ways into specific sectors** – tailored route-ways for young people to enter specific sectors, including volunteering, internships, traineeships, etc). The call is open until 29th May 2015 and you can find more details [here.](https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/tees-valley-unlimited/aims-and-ambitions/economic-strategy/european-funding/esif-open-call.aspx)

**Speakers**

Professor Robert MacDonald Social Futures Institute,

Teesside University

Carl Ditchburn CEO Community Campus ‘87

John Lowther: Chair of Strategic Planning for the Board of Governors

 Redcar and Cleveland College

Kate Roe: Principal

 Darlington College

Sue Hannan: Employment and Skills Manager

 Tees Valley Unlimited

**The seminar is free to attend. Please register your attendance via:**

**Janet Atkinson, Institute for Local Governance, Durham University**

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The Institute for Local Governance is a North East Research and Knowledge Exchange Partnership established in 2009 comprising the regions Universities, Local Authorities, Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

Further information about the content of the event can be obtained by contacting:-

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