

# ACTION FOR WILTSHIRE



## Wiltshire Assembly update bulletin – September 2009

The Action for Wiltshire group was formed following a report to the Wiltshire Assembly in March 2009 that looked at the effects of the recession across the county. The report can be found [here](#).

### What is Action for Wiltshire?

Action for Wiltshire is the people, businesses and communities of Wiltshire working together to tackle the effects of the recession in the county; and to prepare for the economic recovery, building a sustainable future for the county.

If you would like more information about the background to the programme, please see the August newsletter [here](#)

### Progress so far ...

#### Wiltshire business in crisis helpline - 01225 718222

Small businesses in Wiltshire with less than 50 employees who need immediate support through a business crisis can telephone for free professional advice. For more information about the business in crisis helpline project please contact Debby Skellern on 01225 718398 or email [Debby.Skellern@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Debby.Skellern@wiltshire.gov.uk).

#### CAB advice line road shows

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, on Chippenham Town Bridge the Action for Wiltshire bus will be out to launch the new CAB phone line. The increased capacity will allow the Bureaux to answer an extra 300 of calls a week.

As the other bureaux switch calls over to the new phone line, launch events will take place across the county. All road show events are 11am - 2pm

2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Chippenham Town Bridge	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Devizes Market Square
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Trowbridge Town Centre	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Salisbury Market Square

## *New this month ...*

### **The 'potential' programme for young people**

The 'potential' programme aims to provide a coherent range of options for young people in Wiltshire, be that in employment, education or training. In the past month lots of things have been getting underway to support young people; Lots of things have been getting underway for young people in the past month;

- **Future Jobs Fund**

The Future Jobs Fund is a scheme funded by central government to provide minimum 6 month term employment opportunities for young people who have been unemployed for between 39 and 50 weeks. 180 (18-24 year olds) will be employed over the first 6 month tranche (October 2009 to March 2010) within the Council and partner organisations across the county performing a wide range of jobs all delivering direct community benefit from motor mechanics to conservation assistants.

If your organisation would like to play a part in future bids for the county, please contact Haylea Fryer at [ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk) or on 01225 718588.

- **Apprenticeships**

The Wiltshire Council Apprenticeship Programme delivered in partnership with Wiltshire College aims to deliver 66 apprenticeships within the Council and wider Wiltshire public sector during the 2009/10 academic year. The programme launched in September 2009 and the first apprentice has been enrolled.

- **Graduate careers workshops**

The first graduate careers workshops took place during September. Bath Spa and Bath University are running careers workshops for graduates returning to the county to help them find jobs, work experience or volunteering opportunities. Workshops are taking place across the county during 2009.

- **A mentoring programme for NEETs.**

Young people who are not in employment, education or training are now able to benefit from having a senior member of staff within Wiltshire Council as their mentor. This arrangement will enable both the young people and the staff members to learn from each other and hopefully inspire the young person.

The mentors will undergo training over the coming months and the mentoring programme will look to be underway by January 2010.

- **A work experience programme for NEETs.**

Young people who are not in employment, education or training will be able to benefit from work experience opportunities. This will enable them to experience different professions and careers in order to support them in gaining employment or entering education or training to pursue a chosen field.

If you would like further information on this project please email [ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## What next?

- ***Benefit take-up campaign***

A benefit take-up campaign will be launched across the county over the autumn. The campaign will ensure that people facing unemployment or redundancy are aware of all the benefits they are entitled to and how to claim them, and also help maximise the income of vulnerable people by helping them to claim the correct benefits and cope with the increased cost of living.

Benefit caseworkers will be appointed over the next few weeks and will be liaising with all major agencies involved in benefits.

- ***Improving the 'street scene'***

Town councils and area boards are considering projects to improve the 'street scene' in that area. For example this may be a project to enhance or to productively use empty shop fronts.

- ***Area boards taking action***

Area boards across Wiltshire are being asked to consider actions that can be taken in their local area to support with the Action for Wiltshire programme or targets from the Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

## Next top priorities

- **The Wiltshire Assembly meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> October**

At the next Wiltshire Assembly meeting there will be a summary of the Action for Wiltshire programme so far – you will get to see and hear ways in which the programme has supported the people, businesses and communities of Wiltshire over the past 6 months.

- **The future**

The next top priority for the Action for Wiltshire programme is to begin looking at what Wiltshire needs to recover strongly from the recession and to become sustainable for the future. In order to plan effectively for recovery, research is underway to look at what Wiltshire needs to recover strongly and how we can all work to get there.

## Who to contact

If you would like further information about the Action for Wiltshire programme or if you have any questions or comments please email [ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ActionforWiltshirePMO@wiltshire.gov.uk) or call Rachel Goff on 01225 713931.

