

Employment skills for young people in Banbridge

450 young people from four post primary schools in the Banbridge area had the opportunity to explore a range of career and further study options recently at an Employability and Volunteering Fair in the Gilford Community Centre.



Pupils from Banbridge High School, Dromore High School, Rathfriland High School and St. Patricks College Banbridge explore career opportunities at the Employability and Volunteering Fair in the Gilford Community Centre

The event, which was organised by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Banbridge Locality Planning Group brought experienced professionals together with young people to increase the uptake of volunteering locally, help plan young people's futures, improve CVs and polish interview techniques.

School leavers also had the opportunity to meet representatives from universities, colleges of further and higher education, training schools, apprenticeship providers and employers offering information on study and career prospects.

Julie Bolton, CYPSP Locality Planning Officer in the Southern Trust Area has said, “We hope young people attending this event will be challenged and motivated to think outside the box in terms of developing their skills and have had the opportunity to see the wide range of study and career prospects available to them. Events like these are aimed at offering support and guidance to young people at a very important stage of their lives.”

Volunteer organisations such as Millennium Volunteers, Volunteer Now and Volunteer Bureau were also on hand to provide information on local volunteering opportunities. These opportunities enable young people to support local initiatives and learn new skills which in turn, boost their CVs and employment prospects.

Fionnuala Hartigan, a teacher from St. Patrick’s College, Banbridge welcomed the initiative. She said, “Year 12, 13 and 14 had a fabulous morning at the fair. Students came away with lots of new ideas, clear information, and a refreshed enthusiasm for volunteering. Thank you to Julie Bolton, Southern Area Locality Planning Worker for organising the event and the host of agencies that were available to speak to our students”.

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the CYPSP visit www.cypsp.org or contact Julie Bolton, CYPSP Locality Planning Officer for the Southern Trust Area contact 02895 363966 or email Julie.bolton@hscni.net