



Press Release

Partnership on target to boost apprenticeships

A local housing association and council have teamed up to mark national apprenticeship week having helped 55 young people build a new career.

In a move to address the skills shortfall within the construction industry Melin Homes and CMC² formed a £2.5m shared apprenticeship scheme, Y Prentis.

Since its launch last year Y Prentis, managed by CMC² Monmouthshire Council's Community Interest Company and Melin Homes, is on course to reach its target to get 105 people onto a sustainable apprenticeship in its first three years.

Reflecting the changing needs of industry, the scheme allows apprentices to move flexibly between a number of employers to gain a full apprenticeship qualification. It enables employers to offer a proportion of an apprenticeship without having to commit to the full three year term, which is becoming increasingly difficult with the rise in short term projects or contracts which don't offer appropriate training and work experience.

The scheme is sponsored by the Welsh Government and CITB-Construction Skills Wales, the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for construction and managed by Melin Homes and CMC² and operated by SOSAVI.

It offers craft apprenticeships in trades such as brickwork, joinery, plastering and infrastructure and civil engineering, with training and work placements being provided by local colleges and a number of local employers including Melin Homes, Cowlin, Leadbitter and Interserve, AP Waters, Apollo, Balfour Beatty Bouygues, Greenhill, ISG, Kier, Knox and Wells, Lovell, SMK, Stephensons, Thomas CMS Holdings, Willmott Dixon, WK Plasterers, WRW, Laing O'rourke and Jehu.

Daniel Hearse was one of the first people on Y Prentis books and he is now working on site helping to build a new super school with Leadbitter, a subsidiary of Bouygues UK.

"Last year I got laid off from an online retailer and I wanted to find a trade to give me some security, said 20-year-old Daniel, who has secured a two-year apprenticeship giving him valuable experience as he works towards his NVQ Level 2 in bricklaying.

"The on-the-job experience that I am getting now will hopefully give me a head start when I finish college and start looking for a job."

Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology Ken Skates paid a visit to the Penarth Learning Community (PLC) to meet Daniel and his fellow Y Prentis workers. MR Skates said: "It's imperative for the future of the Welsh economy that we ensure our young people have the high level transferable skills they need to find work and succeed in life."





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Adrian Huckin Director at Melin Homes and Y Prentis said: "The Y Prentis Shared Apprenticeship Scheme offers companies and apprentices many benefits and advantages and will be an invaluable addition to the development of the construction industry. Employing apprentices often becomes a great financial and time burden for small companies, however shared apprenticeships can alleviate these issues as well as addressing South East Wales' construction skills needs, making the industry in this area a more stable one."

To find out more watch our short film at www.yprentis.co.uk and find out how to become an apprentice.

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Notes for editors;

Y Prentis is sponsored by Construction Skills and Welsh Government. The company was set up in October 2012 and is owned by Melin Homes and CMC². Employment experts SO SAVI run the day-to-day operations. Y Prentis works with key public sector and housing association clients across the area to help them deliver their targeted recruitment and training targets against key projects like SEWSCAP, arbed 2 ERDF, WHQS and Circuit of Wales. We are currently working with 16 construction companies.

For more information contact Communication Officer Sam Muftuoglu on 01495 745920 or email sam@melinhomes.co.uk

