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Media Release

Future Jobs Fund to bring new jobs for Peterborough

Peterborough's young people are set to gain from a new fund to help create employment opportunities across the city. The Greater Peterborough Partnership has successfully bid for funds to create up to 167 new jobs under the Government's Future Jobs Fund and will be working with partners over coming weeks to finalise the exact details of each job.

The Future Jobs Fund is part of the Government's 'Backing Young Britain' campaign – which seeks to help young people into employment. This is a £1 billion national programme creating 150,000 new jobs for unemployed people.

Peterborough's Future Jobs Fund bid has brought together 24 organisations from the public and voluntary and community sectors to create a range of jobs in health, environment and community work. Some of the jobs that are envisaged include:

- Creating a dedicated team of young people within the health service in Peterborough to promote healthy living amongst young people
- Supporting local conservation organisations to manage nature reserves and engage with local communities
- Working with the police to assist community support officers in their day to day duties
- Providing teaching support at Peterborough College of Adult Education
- Jobs at Peterborough museum to help support additional community events
- Supporting the YMCA with its youth delivery programmes

All jobs will come with suitable training packages and will be advertised through Job Centre Plus.

The new jobs should come on stream from November and are targeted at two groups of long term unemployed people: those living in 10 unemployment 'hotspots' in the City, and young people aged 18 – 25. The initiative aims to create a lasting benefit to Peterborough by enabling young people to contribute to the community and also proving them with the essential skills needed to continue to work in our growing city.

Marco Cereste, Leader of Peterborough City Council and vice-chair of the Greater Peterborough Partnership said, "The Future Jobs Fund enables us to make a real investment in our young people and in our city. Peterborough has many talented young people who are currently struggling to find work, the opportunities which the Future Jobs Fund brings will not only give confidence to our young people and bring out the best of their talent, but it will also benefit our communities."

The new jobs will last for a minimum of six months, providing work for at least 25 hours per week and will be paid the National Minimum Wage. One day each fortnight will be spent on skills for life training – including classes on in CV writing, writing job applications, interview skills and job-finding.

The programme aims to ensure that every young person finishes the programme with a greatly enhanced range of skills and knowledge and a more confident approach to job seeking.

~Ends~

Media contacts

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Notes to editors:

The Future Jobs Fund bid in Peterborough is a city-wide initiative being lead by the Greater Peterborough Partnership

The jobs created all aim to support Peterborough's Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out the vision of creating 'A bigger and better Peterborough that grows the right way' and through truly sustainable development and growth:

- Improves the quality of life of all its people and communities and ensures that all communities benefit from growth and the opportunities it brings.
- Creates a truly sustainable Peterborough, the urban centre of a thriving sub-regional community of villages and market towns, a healthy, safe and exciting place to live, work and visit, famous as the environment capital of the UK.

Peterborough has been hit relatively hard by the economic downturn, with an increase in the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance of nearly 3,000 over the last year, reaching 6,363 in June 2009 – the highest in the region.