

ACTION

COLLABORATIVE

THINKING

INNOVATIVE



NEWSLETTER

September 2009

innovative thinking
collaborative action

This quarter's newsletter includes a spotlight on our research into increasing the number of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training.

We also focus on two of publications from the last few months: our poll of 500 businesses into the impact of the recession on training; and the final in a series of reports understanding the demand for higher level skills from employers.

SPOTLIGHT

CFE launch key findings to increase the number of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training

CFE, commissioned by CfBT Education Trust, has undertaken a review of historic youth unemployment and training programmes. The review has identified a number of lessons for policymakers focused on *maximising* education and training and *minimising* unemployment amongst the 16 and 17 year old age group today.

The research was launched at an event attended by David Willetts, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

More information about the launch and the full report can be found [here](#).

KEY PUBLICATIONS

CFE/ICM poll: Impact of the recession on workplace training

CFE's poll (carried out by ICM) with over 500 businesses found that 84% of businesses were unaware of any Government training initiatives.

Encouragingly however, nearly three quarters of the businesses spoken to had undertaken some form of work related training in the last 6 months -with 63% saying they would maintain the same levels of training during the recession. This was also reflected in the finding that 73% of businesses agreed with Lord Mandelson's statement that '*businesses that invest in training are less likely to fail*'.
The full findings can be found [here](#).

An assessment of the higher level skills needs of employers in England

CFE has launched its final report in a series aimed at developing a more sophisticated understanding of the higher level skills needs of employers - '*Using demand to shape supply*'.

The research funded by the Higher Education Funding Commission for England surveyed 1,300 employers and combines the findings from: three regional surveys; focus groups; and refers to the findings of similar studies such as the 'CBI's Stepping Higher' report.

The full report can be found [here](#).

RECENT ARTICLES

What can we learn from the Australian Group Training Organisation Apprenticeship model?

CFE draws on the success of Apprenticeships in Australia to inform their expansion in England. In Australia, Group Training Organisations - who recruit apprentices and hire them out to employers - is a popular method of engaging employers and has parallels with the Group Training Associations here in England.

The full article which appeared in Workplace Bulletin is [here](#).

A known unknown – the market for higher level skills training to employers is open wide

Drawing on CFE's research '*Using demand to shape supply*' this article highlights four key messages for higher level skills providers to attract businesses that have not previously invested in training at a higher level.

The full article which appeared in T Mag can be found [here](#).

THE SMALL PRINT

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ABOUT CFE

CFE is an independent, not for profit organisation dedicated to increasing social and economic prosperity across the UK.

We provide policy development, research and project management expertise to a wide range of government departments, agencies and providers responsible for delivering the skills and employment agendas.

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CFE WEBSITE

Take a look at the CFE website for more information about our [work](#), our [people](#) and regularly updated [news](#) area.

The homepage can be found [here](#).

NEW PROJECTS

CFE is currently working on a number of [projects](#). New projects this quarter include:

Assessing the suitability of Apprenticeships in the UK Environmental and Land-based sector

Lantra

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Library workforce benchmarking

London Library Change Programme Board

[> MORE](#)

CFE NEWS

CFE hosting a workshop at the NAEGA National Conference in October

The workshop entitled 'Understanding advanced prototypes: a view from the inside of Slough Working Better' will outline progress and lessons learnt from supporting the development of Slough's advancement prototype.

[> MORE](#)

CFE responds to BBC article which branded the Apprenticeship matching website a 'gimmick'

The BBC article focused on the website failing to fill vacancies and the cost of Apprenticeship advertising featuring Sir Alan Sugar. CFE stated that the article was somewhat misleading in linking the two issues and failed to grasp the context of the wider strategy of the National Apprenticeship Service and how the vacancy matching website fits into this.

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GET IN TOUCH!

Phoenix Yard
Upper Brown Street
Leicester
LE1 5TE

Medius House
2 Sheraton Street
Soho
London
W1F 8BH

Tel: 0116 229 3300

Email: info@cfe.org.uk

Web: www.cfe.org.uk