

**Taking forward the Sustainable Community Strategy Commitments:  
FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS 27 APRIL 2010**

**12. Providing our workforce with access to locally relevant skills and training to achieve better paid employment**

**i. What particular aspects of this commitment should we be focusing on initially?**

- We will support individuals from target groups and priority areas to develop skills which match growth sector employment opportunities
- We will raise aspirations and participation in skills and training throughout West Cheshire with a particular focus on priority areas and target groups
- Need to better target certain sectors to ensure skills are matched to jobs. To ensure this happens, there more evidence and research is required to help undertake a needs assessment. Some emerging economic intelligence from the Local Economic Assessment could help to better inform us.
- Aim to better equip young people for the future by working in partnership with schools and universities.
- Some concern over the high concentration of training targeted towards the retail and service sector – a general need to try and raise expectations through the type of training provision available and directed to the young.
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**ii. Are there any particular communities/areas/issues in need of improvement activity that we should focus on?**

- Identifying future skills and training (i.e. green education especially building)
- Promoting traditional skills - eg heritage skills to regenerate buildings in Chester centre.
- Retaining young people in jobs. More mentoring suggested to provide young people with support and guidance.

**iii. Are there any areas of good practice that we can build on?**

- Using a pub as a hub in rural areas
- Graduates and undergraduates – bring in business growth and pulling strands together i.e. risks, innovation
- Future Jobs Fund has proven to give a real opportunity for young people to enter the jobs market. The scheme has been successful to date, there is a clear need and ambition to ensure the scheme is supported and continued in future, although no future funding has been identified.

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#### **iv. Any opportunities for innovative activity?**

- Expertise – archaeology (walls)
- Upgrading of energy efficiencies of all building – near future – local people involved
- Need to raise aspirations – one route might be via work experience to give young people a flavour of the range of job opportunities available. Need to raise the expectations of young people away from a narrow range of sectors such as retail.
- In terms of older people that are seeking new skills, there are good practice examples where access is being provided to some basic skills in terms of numeracy and literacy.