

Future Work with Job Centre Plus in York's Children's Centres

Information - about JCP, Future Prospects (York's free employment and learning advice service) and family and adult learning services to be included in children's centre "welcome packs"; free "warm phone" access in children's centres to JCP advice and services.

Advice sessions – regular weekly drop-in advice sessions delivered at each site by the JCP adviser; JCP adviser involvement in community drop-in groups and other more structured activities, becoming known and valued by parents as a regular member of the multi-agency team.

Outreach and home visiting services – actively encouraging and supporting parents to engage with JCP services and a range of opportunities for adult learning and training in employment related skills.

Access to a wide range of courses offered by the Family Learning & Skills for Life Service – these courses are already well-established in the three children's centres, enabling parents to develop the knowledge, basic skills and confidence to access further education and training.

Accredited (e.g. The Open College Network) **courses on job-search skills** – one course per centre, running two hours per week for 32 weeks, including access to free childcare.

Volunteering in schools – building on successful experience to date, support for up to nine learners each year who have achieved a Level 2 qualification in literacy and numeracy to become volunteers in schools and then to offer them funded access to Support Work in Schools vocational qualifications).

Volunteer co-ordinator – to develop opportunities for local parents on benefits to serve as volunteers in a range of community settings, including children's centres, supporting them in gaining the skills and the confidence necessary to progress to work-related training and employment.

ESOL teaching – opportunities to learn or improve skills in spoken and written English and, for students who gain Level 2 qualifications, progression to other opportunities as described above.

Access to apprenticeships (via York Training Centre) - basic apprenticeships for people who have already gained Level 1 literacy and numeracy and can be found a work placement

Debt counselling and budget management advice – providing training and additional capacity for Children's Centre Development Workers to undertake

targeted work with vulnerable families in financial difficulties, working closely with the JCP adviser and Future Prospects.

Training for early years practitioners - a rolling programme of poverty awareness training to ensure that all practitioners understand the importance of work to alleviate poverty and the impact of poverty on children's outcomes (three sessions per year for up to 150 practitioners, £3,000 per annum).

Access to childcare – flexible provision that will meet the needs of parents engaged in sessional courses or full-time training, as described above, including: maximising access to childcare and early education through the local Pathfinder schemes (see below); sessional childcare provided by children's centre staff; block-booking of one full-time place in each of the three neighbourhood nurseries; financial support for parents accessing childcare in other settings.