

Get into the Brecon Beacons Case Study

Project Title:	RDP054: Get into The Brecon Beacons	
Delivered by	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and The Princes Trust	
Start date:	April 2017	End Date: December 2019
LEADER Theme:	Theme 2 - Facilitating Pre-Commercial Development, Business Partnerships and Short Supply Chains	

Total Expenditure:	£151,497.12
RDP Funding:	£113,328.37
Match funding:	£38,168.75

1. Introduction

Get into the Brecon Beacons is a partnership project between Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and The Princes Trust Cymru. The main funder is Arwain the Powys LEADER programme (80%) Match funding is provided equally by the 2 project partners.

It is a pilot to test provision of rural skills training for NEET and near NEET young people in a rural area to support progression to paid employment. It utilises The Princes Trust's Get Into methodology, widely tested in other sectors in urban areas, but trialled here for the 1st time in a rural area and for the 1st time in rural skills. It engages young people with low educational attainment and lacking specific skills in learning about and understanding opportunities for local employment and business in the local environmental heritage sector, gaining work ready skills, and gaining 3 months of work experience.

2. Challenge

In 2016 BBNPA was part way through a four year Skills in Action partnership project supported through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme. The focus of which was creating paid, high quality opportunities for new entrants to the heritage sector helping to sustain the heritage sector in the longer term. Alongside practical experience and qualifications gained, trainees undertook Level 2 City and Guilds Environmental Conservation diploma. This scheme had very high levels of progression into employment in the sector but was hugely oversubscribed.

From the number of applications received and subsequent feedback from individuals and referral agencies it was evident there was a need for a rural skills training scheme offering a higher level of support for individuals; particularly for young people facing multiple or significant challenges who were not quite ready and often lacking confidence.

Locally there was a gap in rural skills training for young people unable to access out of county provision (closest provision being at Coleg Sir Gar or Usk College) unless they have access to private transport.

3. Solution

BBNPA partnered with The Princes Trust Cymru, who have wide and extensive experience of providing training and support to NEET and near NEET young people, including through their Get Into programmes with a range of employment sectors and employers. A successful partnership application, led by BBNPA, was made to Arwain, the Powys LEADER fund, for a project worth £141,000. 80% funded by Arwain with the match from the two partner organisations.

Get into the Brecon Beacons project piloted rural skills training for NEET young people, introducing The Princes Trust Cymru Get Into approach for the first time to rural skills in a rural area.

Between August 2017 and December 2019 the project provided five cohorts, each with a training and selection fortnight, followed by a paid three month traineeships at the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for a smaller number. The aim being to provide individuals with training and hands-on work experience in the conservation sector. Alongside the practical experience and skills gained, trainees worked towards attaining practical skills qualifications such as first aid, manual handling, brushcutter and chainsaw.

4. Benefit

Get Into the Brecon Beacons has been a successful project resulting in positive outcomes for trainees in terms of their skills, experience and qualifications gained. Significantly, the Project has been a springboard for many trainees to gain employment, some in the conservation sector.

Get Into the Brecon Beacons has served to:

- enhance the skills and knowledge of participants in land management.
- provide trainees with accredited qualifications.
- strengthen a range of wider transferable skills among trainees, serving to enhance trainees' employability and future career prospects.

The Project recruited a diverse range of individuals, in terms of age profiles and previous experience and qualifications demonstrating that individuals from a range of backgrounds can benefit from the traineeships. The Project engaged with people aged 18-30 years. Safeguarding prevented the involvement of 16-18 year-olds, in part as this would have doubled the cost of paid supervision, and presented other logistical challenges. Feedback from a range of stakeholders indicated that if at all possible future programmes should allow



for 16-18 year-olds. Trainees reported high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the traineeship.

The key outcomes of Get into are the numbers of trainees who have been supported into employment, and those who have progressed into further training or education having previously been disengaged. In this regard, the programme has been a success.

Highlights and wider outcomes:

- Princes Trust Promotional video - highlights the journeys of young people through the Get into the Brecon Beacons project the value and importance of rural training programmes and opportunities for young people who previously were not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Cohort 1 were featured filmed and interviewed by ITV Wales and featured on six o'clock news
- Cohorts 2 and 3 were visited by HRH The Prince of Wales as part of his Wales tour in 2018 and were featured in the Prince's 70th birthday Documentary on BBC1 8th November 2018 and which was repeated over Christmas 2018.
- A trainee from Cohort 4 was nominated by The Princes Trust for a conservation expedition and was successfully selected to take part - one of 2 young people from Wales on a week-long expedition to the Artic.
- Cohort 5 worked closely with a local school and partnered with Balfour Beatty who invited them to visit one of their main sites in Carmarthen.



5. Result

Get Into the Brecon Beacons was been introduced at a time of substantial changes in the employment and benefits sector, which impact NEET and near NEET young people. Particularly those without a secure family background or housing to rely on in times of unemployment.

The programme has been responsive to this changing situation, particularly Universal Credit, and learning from the 1st Cohort has adapted the model to ensure benefit from the



programme without risking financial detriment at the end of the traineeships for those unable to move straight into paid work.

Overall the programme has been successful in enabling young people with no or extremely limited previous work history, and a range of additional barriers, to gain the skills and capacity to move into paid work, and environmental sector skills, experience and understanding in particular.

6. Project Outputs/Outcomes

Output (Case Level Indicator)	Agreed	Achieved
No. of feasibility studies	0	n/a
No. of networks established	0	n/a
No. of jobs safeguarded	0	n/a
No. Of pilot activities undertaken / supported	1	1 – Get into the Brecon Beacons is a pilot.
No. of community hubs created	0	n/a
No. of stakeholders engaged	10	26 external stakeholders
No. of participants supported (awareness raising events only)	24	69
Outcomes		
No. of jobs created	12	4
No. of communities benefitting	1	3
No. of businesses benefitting	0	0

7. Project Contact Details

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8. Partners/Match Funders Logos



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Sustainable
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Prince's Trust
Cymru

