



## JOBS GROWTH WALES PROGRAMME

### 1. Background

The Jobs Growth Wales (JGW) programme was launched in April 2012 and was developed as a direct response to the disproportionate level of unemployment experienced by young people aged 16-24 in Wales. The aim of the programme was to create 16,000 paid job opportunities across Wales over a period of 4 years. The longer-term aim of the programme is that the job opportunities created will lead to sustainable employment. JGW was created to tackle a key issue affecting young people in their search for work, namely how could they secure the relevant work experience required by recruiting employers?

JGW2 commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and is expected to run until March 2018.

### 2. How does JGW work?

The programme is administered by 6 contracted Managing Agents who operate across Wales. The Managing Agents work with **employers** to identify job opportunities and support them to create a job description, advertise the vacancy and manage the recruitment process. The job opportunity must be additional to the existing workforce and JGW therefore contributes to business growth.

An employer who offers a job opportunity to an eligible young person will be reimbursed the cost of the young person's wages for a period of 6 months. The young person must be paid at the age-appropriate National Minimum Wages and be issued with a contract of employment.

JGW is designed to help **young people** who are assessed as being 'job ready' and who have no barriers to entering the labour market other than a lack of work experience. The assessment of 'job readiness' is carried out by Careers Wales (16 & 17 year-olds) and Jobcentre Plus (part of the UK's Department for Work and Pensions) for 18-24 year-olds..

JGW job opportunities are advertised on the Careers Wales website and there is an online job application process for young people.

The Managing Agents provide mentoring support for the young person during the 6-month job opportunity and can identify any issues or problems which may arise and which could threaten the sustainability of the job opportunity.

### 3. Key points

- Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 17,195 jobs were created and 14,989 jobs were filled;
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 2792 jobs were created and 1353 jobs have been filled.

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