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Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref PO 42 2025

Andrew R.T. Davies  
Committee Chair

AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

4 February 2025

Dear Andrew,

**Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee 15/01/2025  
Follow up on the Young Person's Guarantee**

On 15 January 2025, I attended the Committee meeting to discuss the Welsh Government draft budget for 2025/2026. During the meeting, I offered to write in more detail about what the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) has provided to young people in Wales.

The YPG is a Programme for Government commitment launched in November 2021 to provide everyone between 16 and 24 in Wales with the offer of support to gain a place in education, training, an apprenticeship, find a job, or become self-employed. Since its launch, over 45,000 young people have been supported through our employability and skills programmes alone.

Delivery of the YPG is underpinned by a variety of employability, business and training support options, with the primary referral mechanism being provided by Working Wales, which offers free and impartial careers advice and guidance if you are aged 16 or above. As well as providing details of the principal programmes under the YPG I have provided a number of case studies which bring to life the support provided by the programme:

**Jobs Growth Wales+ (JGW+)**, our flagship programme under the YPG, provides a tailored package of support for young people aged 16-19 with training and development activities through employment, formal training or voluntary work. So far, 13,345 young people have been engaged through JGW+ since the programme launched in April 2022.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Amy, from Bargoed, is an example of a young person in Wales who has benefitted from the Jobs Growth Wales+ programme. Amy was diagnosed with a sight impairment at the age of 7. She joined JGW+ on the Engagement strand and quickly progressed to Advancement enabling her to study for a Level 1 Health and Social Care qualification. The programme provided funding for Amy to have a personal laptop and course tutors downloaded appropriate software which made the screen more accessible, enabling her to complete courses much quicker than before. Through a combination of courses aimed at CV writing and interview preparation, Amy was able to secure experience in a working environment and is now pursuing a career in the childcare industry.

Cez, 17, from Flintshire, is another who has secured a work placement having participated in the programme. Cez learnt about how to apply for a job and what to include in a CV with the tutors also providing information about different industries and offering new ways of learning tailored to her needs. Following the careers advice and support she received through the Jobs Growth Wales+ tutors, Cez had an interview, and was successful in securing a placement at a local estate agency.

**Communities for Work+ (CfW+)** provides specialist employment advisory support and mentoring for NEET individuals and those facing a complex barrier to employment, aged 16 years and above. So far, 9,750 young people have been engaged through CfW+.

Jade, a young mother with complex barriers from Torfaen, benefitted from the support provided by CFW+. Jade was a full-time mother who had previously completed a hair and beauty course in college but was unsure of her next steps in her career. Through the support provided by CFW+ in terms of advice, guidance and preparing for interview, Jade was successful in applying for a volunteering role in a Torfaen Play Scheme. Arrangements were then made for Jade to complete a childcare course which enabled her to apply for and secure a paid employment role in the Play Scheme.

**Inspiring Skills Excellence in Wales** delivers a programme of activities that strengthens the understanding, awareness and delivery of vocational education, skills standards, training, and career pathways for learners, practitioners, and businesses in Wales. The programme encourages engagement and participation in Skills Competitions to raise standards for both competitors and practitioners; supports national and international competitors to develop their skills to a world class standard and provides sector specific professional development for practitioners and training managers in Wales. In 2024 – 2025 the programme engaged with 1,500 young people in local competitions across Wales.

At the WorldSkills Final in Lyon in September 2024, 6 Welsh students competed as part of Team UK, with one Welsh competitor, Ruben Duggan, winning a silver medal. Nearly a third of the WorldSkills UK training team came from the education and training sector in Wales.

At the recent WorldSkills UK National and SkillBuild Finals in November 2024, Wales emerged as a standout region in the competition. A total of 70 medals were won by the 118 Welsh competitors, setting the stage for Wales to host the WorldSkills UK Finals for the first time in November 2025.

**Big Ideas Wales** provides support for young people to overcome challenges to becoming self-employed. It helps young people learn about business, work with an adviser to prepare for self-employment and potentially access a financial grant to help start up a business.

Since 2021, Big Ideas Wales has delivered 6,283 workshops, led by entrepreneurs, to reach 240,343 young people under 25 years of age. In that period, 3,646 young people aged 16-24 have been engaged in the start-up programme that provides business advice and guidance. The Barriers to Start-Up Grant launched in July 2022 and has provided

financial support for 609 economically inactive and unemployed individuals with a grant of up to £2,000 to start their own business, alongside a package of business support and advice. Following the support (either financial and non-financial) 669 have gone on to start a business.

Poppi, a 20 year old entrepreneur from Neath Port Talbot launched her own catering business thanks to the support provided by Big Ideas Wales. Poppi attended culinary and catering courses, completed Level 2 Hygiene and Health and Allergy Awareness courses and received valuable advice and resources that have supported her in launching her own business. Big Ideas Wales also supported Poppi in a successful application for a Barriers to Business Grant of £2,000 which went towards more appliances for her business.

**ReAct+** provides grant support for vocational training, travel costs and care related to training for those seeking to re-enter the labour market, aged 20 years and above. The grant is targeted at those under formal notice of redundancy, those who have been made redundant in the last six months, ex-offenders and offenders serving community sentences. The programme has supported 726 young people since its launch in June 2022.

The programme has helped people like Luke, a 24 year old man from Cwmfelinfach, kickstart his dream career after he was made redundant shortly before the birth of his first child. Luke met with a Working Wales adviser to discuss his career goals and they started developing a package of support that would help him get back into employment. This included funding for all the essential training courses required for Luke to navigate his career change.

**Apprenticeships** in Wales combine practical training in a job alongside additional study, allowing an apprentice to gain work experience, learn new skills and get a nationally recognised qualification while *earning* a wage. The YPG commenced in November 2021 and figures, available on Medr's website, show that since the third quarter of 2021/22, there have been over 20,600 apprenticeship starts.

Sayfan Iqbal, a 22 year old creative apprentice from Cardiff, was selected from hundreds of applicants for a full-time apprenticeship role at ITV Cymru Wales' waterfront HQ in Cardiff Bay. Safyan was born with poor hearing, which worsened over time until he had surgery aged 11 to fit a cochlear implant which helped him to hear more clearly. As part of his apprenticeship he learnt a variety of skills including how to operate cameras and shoot and edit as part of his ambition to become a camera operator or filmmaker.

I hope that I've been able to highlight the significant progress made against the Young Person's Guarantee and provide an illustration of the tangible and meaningful impact on the young people of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

**Jack Sargeant AS/MS**

Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership  
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