

HYPE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

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Sociable, fun activities are also incorporated into the HYPE timetable

YOUNG PARENTS - HYPE HELPS PREPARE FOR CHANGE



HYPE participants take part in a group session

Change is round the corner for many young parents with the forthcoming radical overhaul of the benefits payment system which starts this year and HYPE or in its full name **Helm Young Parents' Employment project**, particularly aims to help young parents prepare for the new emphasis on getting back into work that will come over the next few years.

The changes planned will start to take effect from later this year, with lone parents who have children aged 12 years and above expected to return to work and by 2010 this age limit will be lowered to those with children aged 7 years and over - and their benefits could be affected if they refuse to take up employment opportunities. That means parents with young children now must start preparing to return to the workplace in two years time and HYPE is the ideal way for many of them to tackle this issue in a gradual, supported way. **HYPE offers a mix of training strands on different days for 16-23 year olds** and is designed to be a enjoyable way for young parents to brush up on their skills for work, gain relevant qualifications and build their confidence ready for work. **You even get bus fares paid too!**

MONDAY
HYPE: 1.45PM - 4PM
TUESDAY
HYPE: 1.45pm - 4pm
WEDNESDAY
Lunch club
St Andrews's Church Hall
12 noon - 1.45pm
HYPE: 1.45pm - 4pm
THURSDAY
Lunch club
St Andrew's Church Hall
12 noon - 1.45pm
HYPE 1.45pm - 4pm

Free crèche runs every day in St Andrew's Hall (just next to the Wellgate and round the corner from Helm's Dundee training centre in St Andrew's Lane).

EARN £15 EXTRA A WEEK

To help support those keen to learn new skills, Jobcentreplus could now offer £15 extra a week on top of benefits to those registering onto a new course. **Leesa Russell** Lone Parent Advisor based at the Wellgate Jobcentreplus is happy to discuss with anyone interested in taking up this option and participating in HYPE.

WORK TOWARDS ECDL AT YOUR OWN PACE



ECDL will be run every Thursday in Helm's IT suite

A working knowledge in IT remains key to many office and administration positions and keeping skills up to date in the latest packages can be difficult if you have limited access to computers which can be the case for young parents. To overcome this problem, HYPE has now incorporated the **ECDL training package** into the weekly timetable to enable participants to get comprehensive coverage of all the relevant Microsoft packages used in the workplace.

Each **Thursday** participants, with the support of tutors can work through the modules at their own pace - learning what they need. The ECDL is a recognised qualification in the workplace and along with HYPE's own 'Certificate of Success' (see page 2) will indicate clearly to employers the vital computer skills participants have covered.

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BEAUTY SKILLS THAT COUNT IN THE WORKPLACE

With so many job opportunities available on a part-time, flexible basis in the health and beauty business, it is a profession that can suit working mothers well. Susan McNeill, HYPE Project Coordinator is currently using her previous training in the field to cover the syllabus

Introduction to Beauty on Monday afternoons to enable HYPE participants to enter the college at a higher level.



Trainees are covering facial techniques, depilation (hair removal) and nail care as well as essential skills in customer care.



Susan covers essential health and beauty skills on a Monday afternoon that are relevant to popular salon procedures

PARTICIPANTS LEAD DECISION-MAKING

To enable HYPE participants to offer suggestions and provide feedback on the course contents, a new **HYPE Council** has been established which will have its first meeting in February. This new participants' forum will discuss the direction of possible future training and also look at social outings for the group.

EMPLOYMENT FOCUS

Caroline Davidson (below), Helm's own **Employment Liaison Officer** is now available every **Tuesday afternoon** to HYPE participants to discuss college courses, placement opportunities or other employability issues like CVs or application forms.



CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESS

To mark the successful progression of the trainees on the HYPE course, regular graded certification is now provided to demonstrate the wide coverage of skills available on the course.

The certificates provide a summary of all the training areas achieved over several months which might be as varied as to include Careers Scotland courses, like the recently completed Worknet course, literacy sessions or



Peter Friend presents Level 1 Certificate of Success and a Wellgate voucher to Jemmi who was the highest achieving HYPE participant



Paul Davies from Working for Families and Susan McNeill, Project Coordinator for HYPE (above) at the 'Celebration of Success' award ceremony held in December.

SQA Communication modules as well as softer skills and attendance. The aim of the certificate is to give employers a greater understanding of the all-round development of a trainee on the HYPE course and their preparation for work.

For more details on HYPE, please contact Susan or Liz on 01382 224464