

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
30th April 2014**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Steve Davies, Portfolio Holder for HR
ICT and Communications**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Huw Williams

How many Powys County Council services have indicated they will recruit apprentices in the new financial year?

To date no service has indicated that they are definitely able to recruit apprentices for the forthcoming financial year. However, the Corporate L&D Manager and her team are continuing to work with Heads of Service – Human Resources, Business Services and Highways, Transport and Recycling - to identify possible opportunities to address gaps that have been left following recent staff departures.

A visit from Ken Skates, the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, to look at the work of the Powys Youth Academy has been arranged for the 5th June, where it is hoped that it can be highlighted that the public sector does not have access to funding in the same way as private sector employers would to support the employment of apprentices. Whilst the training for all apprentices is free, funding is only available to the private sector to support the employment of young people e.g. Young Recruits programmes. This is a Welsh Government programme that offers wage subsidy support (£50 per week) for the first year of the apprentice's employment.

Other elements of the project are progressing well, with services offering work experience opportunities at school, college, voluntary and Job Centre Plus levels to young people across the authority. To date there are 15 confirmed placements for year 10 pupils, but requests are expected to increase significantly over the next few months for the June/July placements.