

Press Release

Graduation For Latest Cohort of Young Employment Trainees

Local representatives for a youth employment training scheme set up in 2013 showed their support by attending a special ceremony to celebrate the achievements of young people who have completed the latest course as part of the Hailsham Works! project.

The Mayor of Hailsham Councillor Jo Bentley joined other invited guests and Tomorrow's People project staff at the sixth Hailsham Works! graduation ceremony which took place at the Town Council offices last Thursday [2 April], at which framed certificates were presented to graduates by the Town Mayor.

Awards were given to six graduates including Telisha Harman and Megan Lee, as well as Nancy Cole who achieved 100% attendance throughout the course.

The Mayor announced that the Town Council is once again delighted with the latest training cohort and the success of the Hailsham Works! since its launch in September 2013.

Hailsham Works! Task Force Leader Jan Townsend said: "We're delighted to see our latest cohort graduate with so many successes, they have all worked so hard. We will continue to keep in contact with our graduates and offer them support if needed on an ongoing basis. Well done everyone!"

"We would also like to thank the Town Mayor Councillor Jo Bentley for her continued personal support to our young people as she takes the time to present certificates to our latest graduates."

Businesses and community groups – named the 'Hailsham 100' and including the Wealden Citizens' Advice Bureau – were also praised at the event for supporting the Hailsham Works! project by way of donation, time, creation of job and providing opportunities for the young people of Hailsham.

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Notes to Editors:

- September 2013 saw the doors open to the first group of young people to join Hailsham Works!, a project run for 16-24 year olds from the former Cortlandt stable block in North Street by Sussex-based charity Tomorrow's People.
- The group has undertaken a large variety of employment focused, confidence building and motivational activities during the latest 10-week course and have also got involved in various community projects, undertaking a variety of work placement and training days.
- Tomorrow's People is a Sussex-based national employment charity that works with long term unemployed people to help them get and keep a job. Since it was established in 1984, the charity has helped over 440,000 people from disadvantaged communities around the UK on their journey back to work.
- A pilot initiative was launched by Tomorrow's People in September 2011, planned as a life changing 10-week programme which aimed to transform the prospects of disadvantaged young people in the area.
- East Sussex County Council recently announced a series of Economic Intervention Fund projects including £2.5m capital funding for Rural Growth and Employment – aimed at the rural areas of East Sussex.

- The objectives of the Hailsham Works! scheme include:
 - To increase employment opportunities for young people
 - To increase motivation, a sense of responsibility, and self-awareness
 - To improve employability skills and employment potential
 - To reduce anti-social behaviour/nuisance/crime amongst young people
 - To get young people to value themselves and their communities
 - To forge partnerships with the local business
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