

FROM THE MINISTER



Department for
**Employment
and Learning**

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Dear Sammy

I agreed to write to you to provide you with further information in relation to your query on the target for gaining employment and the percentage being achieved through my Department's training schemes. Details on these schemes are enclosed for your information.

Yours sincerely

DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA
Minister for Employment and Learning

cc: The Speaker's Office
NI Assembly Library



Steps to Work

- The current target for Steps to Work Lead Contractors for moving participants into sustained employment of 13 weeks or more is 22%.
- From April 2011 to December 2011 (latest figures available) an overall total of 22% was achieved.
- During the same period the Lead Contractor for South & East Belfast achieved 25% into sustained employment.

Youth Employment Scheme

- The Youth Employment Scheme target for 2012/13 is 1,700 work experience, skills development or subsidised jobs. This excludes the 500 First Start opportunities.

The breakdown is -

Work Experience	1,000
Skills Development	400
Jobs	300

Training for Success and Programme-led Apprenticeships

- The Training for Success programme consists of two strands in Skills for your Life and Skills for Work (Level 1). The former specifically aims to address the personal and development needs of young people who have disengaged from learning and/or have significant obstacles. These include those who have been assessed as having, for example, a low academic standard, specific difficulty with learning, and barriers such as disrupted home life or drug/alcohol abuse/misuse.
- In September 2009, the Department introduced Programme-Led Apprenticeships under the banner of Training for Success, as an intervention measure to support school leavers in a dwindling jobs market. It is aimed at those who are capable of achieving a Level 2 Apprenticeship Framework

qualification but are unable to access this through the employer-led route (ApprenticeshipsNI programme) due to the economic downturn. The main focus of the programme is achievement of NVQ, Essential Skills and Full Framework, and progression to ApprenticeshipsNI on securing employment.

- The progression target set for Skills for Life and Skills for Work Level 1 includes progression into another strand of Training for Success, an apprenticeship, Further Education or employment. Employment is rolled into these programmes and is not set as a particular target.
- The figures for Skills for your Life and Skills for Work are set out below. They are based on participants who have finished on the programme and sustained progression outcomes for 13 weeks.
 - April 2010 - March 2011: Of the 3,779 participants who finished on the programme there were 885 claims made in respect of positive progressions representing a ratio of 23.4%.
 - April 2011 - March 2012: Of the 2,941 participants who left the programme there were 810 claims made in respect of positive progressions representing a ratio of 27.5%.

Community Family Support Programme

- The emphasis of the Community Family Support Programme pilot will be to firstly address and find solutions to the complex, diverse and unique health, social and economic needs of each family. As the needs of the family begin to change the pilot will then identify, motivate and support family members to access suitable education, employment and training opportunities.

As this is a 26 week pilot, no into employment targets have been set. However, the number of family members entering education, employment and training will be recorded. The pilot will commence in early December 2012, therefore no outcomes are available at this time to report.