

STEPPING UP



North East England
Tourism Awards 2006
Gold Winner

Stepping Up is targeted at students aged 16-19 who are 'within' the system - either in sixth form or studying within a further education setting.

While studying these young people face challenges including choices over their 'next steps' i.e. more education and further qualifications, part time employment or their first full time job. Students following either academic or vocational routes will benefit from Stepping up as they need to develop a host of generic skills, even though their subsequent career or education routes may vary. These include task and time management, preparing CVs, developing interview skills, general communication skills, teamwork and independent learning.

Through Stepping Up up to 100 pupils at each event enjoy a range of hands-on activities designed to improve their work readiness and improve the transferable skills they will need to take their next steps ... into (or within) the world of education, training or employment. Activities include:

- Memory Mapping company staffing structures, site plans or distribution/production networks.
- Analysis of Job Adverts and identifying team members with the best skills match for jobs.
- Focusing upon the impact their actions can have on their ambitions through 'real life' ethical and moral dilemmas.
- A mini enterprise designed to see students take on various production and management roles within a company set up to produce marketable products on time and within budget.
- Putting together, and giving, a presentation.
- Planning their next steps - into work or education and how to make themselves stand out in a crowd of applicants.

With the focus on employability skills, activities develop team working, problem solving, decision making, delegation, negotiation and communication skills.

The aim of Stepping Up is to:

- Develop work readiness in participants in particular career management, job search, presentation skills, financial planning, self esteem & confidence building, team work, entrepreneurship, time management, independent learning, self recognition and self evaluation.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to explore their next career/education choices.
- Provide an opportunity for potential employers, training providers and education institutions to promote the opportunities they offer to young people.

During the day business supporters play a key role in either acting as team advisers/facilitators or by bringing their particular area of expertise to the event.

Included into the programme is time for participants to meet and talk with employers about what they have to offer each other as the young people's careers and educational progress steps up a gear in early adulthood.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities.
- Practical advice and guidance to business supporters on the proposed activities.
- Ensuring all activities are designed to assist in improving young people's key employability skills.
- Full event organisation including arrangements for venues, transport and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'