

UnionLearn – Summary of Research

Research on Youth Unemployment

This project is studying the crisis of youth unemployment in the UK. The research is funded by UnionLearn and will take place between now and Spring 2013. It will result in a series of policy recommendations about how to make transitions between education and work easier and more effective for young people.

We are keen to look at the challenge from a number of different perspectives.

- **Employers.** Not enough attention is paid to how employers can help young people to make secure and effective transitions into work. Government policy pays remarkably little attention to how employers recruit and manage young people. We will therefore aim to fill that gap by interviewing employers about their experiences of dealing with young people.
- **Unions.** Unions have become increasingly interested in representing the interests of young people in their bargaining agendas. We therefore want to find examples of how unions are bargaining on behalf of young people – perhaps through negotiating apprenticeships, or putting particular issues on the bargaining agenda.
- **JobCentre Plus.** JCP have a unique insight into the challenges both of helping young people find work, and also in the experiences of employers in engaging and managing young people. We will therefore ask Employer Engagement Officers about their experiences of the particular challenges and barriers facing young people finding employment and the perceptions of employers in this process.
- **Young people themselves.** We will hold a number of focus groups with young people themselves to ensure that they have a voice in our research. We are interested in how they understand the challenges facing them finding work and how they are thinking about the routes ahead of them.
- **Desk research.** We will put all of this original research in international context by comparing the UK with other EU member states and what those countries are doing to help young people during the economic crisis. By doing that, we will be able to evaluate how different policies work in different national settings.

Putting all this work together will give us a really good overview of what's going on in the labour market and the problems young people are facing. We will produce policy recommendations that can be taken forward by UnionLearn and other organisations who are looking to help make the situation easier for young people.

If you have any questions or input at any stage, please do feel free to contact us.

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