

# Reaching Out

Work for You is about tackling worklessness in Ayr (Lochside, Whitletts, Dalmilling and North Wallacetown) and Kilmarnock (Onthank, Knockinlaw, Altonhill, Tourhill, Hillhead & Longpark.)

**Welcome** to the third issue of **Reaching Out**, the Work For You monthly newsletter. In this edition we will let you know what the team has been doing this month, and continue our regular feature introducing each member of our team, this month featuring an adviser based in Ayr.

Meet **Ruth Connelly**, a Work For You adviser based in Ayr. Ruth has been with the Department for Work and Pensions for nearly eight years, having previously studied Applied Psychology – Ruth thinks this may be put to good use in her new role! Ruth has experience of working with those furthest from the workplace, and before joining the team supported both lone parents and people with health issues in their journey back to work. Ruth is enjoying the challenge of her new role and is looking forward to being able to go the extra mile for her customers.



## **Work For You Community Outreach: our Mission Statement**

Work For You is here to help and inspire people in our local communities to realise their potential and move forward towards achieving their work goals. Meeting locally, we will work together to make a difference for the future. Our friendly, approachable team promises a supportive, confidential and unique service.

## **How we can help**

Our aim is to help people move towards work, but it is really important that people who do find work get the right support in those crucial early weeks and months. We keep in touch with the people we help into work, continuing to support them as they adjust to being back in employment, and helping overcome any hurdles they face during their transition from unemployment back into the workplace.

*“Good to hear from you, yes job is going well, thanks for asking and taking an interest.”*

**William, started work on 8 September.**

Has your team made one of the 150 referrals we have received so far? You may be interested to learn that we have helped ten people secure full time employment, and have helped many others access a variety of courses and voluntary work.

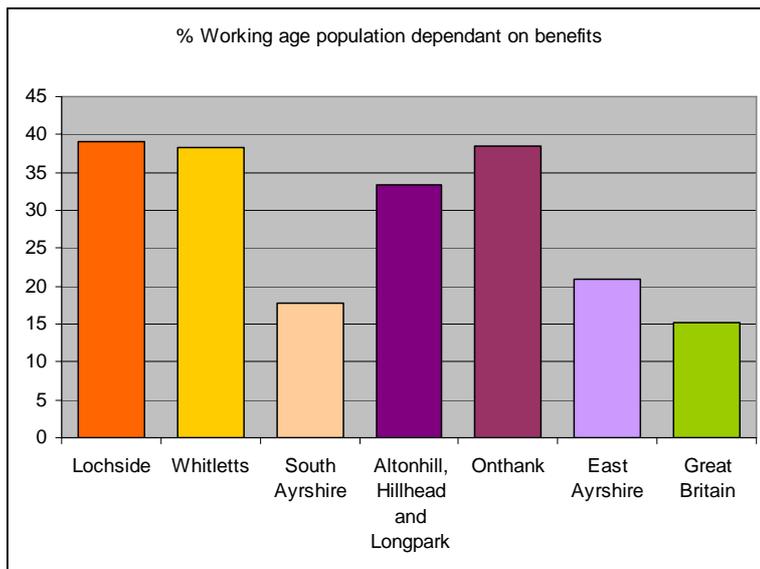
**jobcentreplus**

Part of the Department  
for Work and Pensions

## Who we are helping

The four Local Authority Ward areas we cover each have high numbers of people who are dependant on benefits, be that through unemployment, illness, or caring responsibilities. In each of these areas, almost 40% of the working age population are dependant on benefits of one kind or another.

This is significantly higher than the local authority average, or the UK position.



Source: Office for National Statistics, February 2010

## How you can help

Please encourage your teams to refer any eligible customers to the Work For You team.

In Ayr, eligible customers live in Whitletts (includes Dalmillig) and Lochside (includes North Wallacetown).

In Kilmarnock, eligible customers live in Onthank (includes Knockinlaw), Altonhill (includes Tourhill), Hillhead and Longpark.

Referrals can be made with a simple telephone call to Rose Wilson on 01563 506 568 or 07825 073 332.

Alternatively please email the team at [kilmarnock.workforyou@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kilmarnock.workforyou@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk).

## Working within the Community

Our advisers are making good use of the accommodation kindly offered by a variety of providers, groups and local authorities. In Ayr we continue to use rooms at Lochside Community Centre, John Pollock Centre and the Russell Street building – in Kilmarnock we can be found in the North West Centre, Cairns Nursery and Hillbank Nursery.

The number of home visits we carry out has also increased in the last month, with early feedback telling us that this is particularly helpful for some of our customers.

## New faces

The Work for You team has expanded this month, with Tricia Reynolds joining our Ayr advisory team.

## Next steps

We are continuing to attend team meetings with our providers and partners in an effort to ensure everyone is aware of Work For You. If you would like us to come along to a meeting to tell you a bit more about the team and the work we do, please contact Moira Kelly on 01292 666080, or by email to [moira.kelly@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:moira.kelly@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk).