

Issue
75

West Yorkshire

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CAREERS NEWS

WELCOME TO ISSUE 75 OF CAREERS NEWS!

We hope that you find this edition of WYCN useful and informative. As usual, we should like to receive articles, information or your suggestions for improving WYCN.

Copy deadlines are:

10 September 2010

29 October 2010

STOP PRESS...

When it comes to Children's and Young People's Services, the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government has some similar and some different views on policy within the Cabinet ([YWN 13/05/10](#)). Both agree on:

- Eradicating child poverty by directing payments to state schools for pupils from a disadvantaged background
- Extending flexible working to all parents and the sharing of parental leave on the birth of a child
- Publishing full case reviews when a child dies due to abuse or neglect
- Scrapping the ContactPoint information sharing database
- Early intervention for helping young people 'at-risk' of offending

Areas of disagreement are:

- Joint working through Children's Trusts – Conservatives want to scrap it, the Liberal Democrats want to go further
- The Liberal Democrats want to make Youth Services a statutory responsibility for local authorities, the Conservatives want to move more youth work to the voluntary sector
- The Conservatives want to reward marriage in the tax system, this is less palatable for the Liberal Democrats
- The Liberal Democrats are keen to keep schools' links to local authorities, the Conservatives want schools to have more freedom
- The Liberal Democrats want sex education to be compulsory, the Conservatives don't

ALSO IN THIS EDITION OF WYCN...

- ContactPoint scrapped
- Adult Advancement and Careers Service
- DCSF rebranded
- UCAS deadlines

prospects



Calderdale & Kirklees
Careers

- Local university open days
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- Student finance and higher education
- Disability issues
- Apprenticeships and minimum wage
- Programme Led Apprenticeships (PLAs)

There's news of further and higher education courses and open days, the latest labour market trends and much more.



CONNEXIONS/CAREERS

CONNEXIONS AND CAREERS POLICY..

The Government has decided to scrap the controversial children's database

ContactPoint. This has been seen by some parties as a retrograde step which could leave families of disabled children with reduced co-ordinated support. The database was launched last January and contained the details of 11m children in the country and information on which services they had been in contact with. Supporters of the decision to disband the database claim the system is dangerous and have raised worries about the security of the information it contains (CYPN 13/05/10).

The new Adult Advancement and Careers Service aims to give everyone access to the best information, advice and resources to help them make the most effective choices about skills, careers, work and life. Information and resources will be available online as well as through telephone advisers and face-to-face. There is to be a new directory of course provision, which will replace the current national learning database. The directory will be supported by Skills Funding Agency funded providers, through the sharing of 'accurate, timely information' about post-19 provision. The directory will be accessed by learners via the website of the new service.

All providers will be required to upload details of their funded course provision to the new directory on at least a quarterly basis (NWY 05/10).

The report 'The impact of 14-19 reforms on the career guidance profession in

England', suggests that since career guidance has been delivered through Connexions, there may have been a significant overall reduction in professional capacity to deliver guidance for 14-19 year olds; and that the causes of this reduction need to be addressed to avoid further loss

([CEIAG 03/10](#)).



EDUCATION

EDUCATION POLICY..

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has been rebranded as the Department for Education. See also the 'Ministerial team' and 'In the News' for updates on policy on W: www.education.gov.uk/

The Department for Education must cut £670m but schools and Sure Start are protected. The main cuts seem to be Quangos, including BECTA (the Government agency for the use of innovative technology in learning), QDCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency), and the Future Jobs Fund ([CYPN 24/05/10](#)).

Social mobility in England lags behind many other developed countries, when measured by educational achievement, according to a survey by the education charity, Sutton Trust. However, when compared with people in their 40s and 50s the gap is narrowing for the younger generation ([BBC 26/04/10](#)). To see the full report W: www.suttontrust.com

QUALIFICATIONS...

The new A level Grade A* could go to 7% of entries, research suggests. Students taking maths or languages are the most likely to score top marks. The higher grade was designed to help universities differentiate between the brightest students. But some universities are not going to take the A* grades into account until they are better established ([BBC 28/05/10](#), [TES 28/05/10](#)).

Only around 16% of teachers have confidence in the Government's Diploma qualifications, according to research by Mori, which suggests that most teachers believe the Diploma will have a lower status than A level qualifications. The research also suggests that 37% of teachers and 70% of the public and parents know nothing, or 'not very much' about Diplomas. Separate from the research is another survey that suggests that nearly 25% of schools offering Diplomas will have no takers next year. Teachers believed that the status of the Diploma would be lowest in universities, with 79% saying that admissions officers would rate the new qualification behind the A level. In its first year the Diploma attracted 11,000 pupils, which fell well short of the Government target of 40,000 (TES 19/03/10).

SCHOOL NEWS...

Independent schools in the UK are benefiting from the weak pound, which is helping to attract pupils from countries as diverse as China, Germany and South Korea. This year has seen a 7.4% rise in overseas pupils, but a drop of 0.6% in overall numbers at independent schools, down to 511,886 in April. There have, however, been pronounced regional falls, with a 5.3% drop in boarders in the north, along with a 2% decline in day students. In a bid to keep attracting pupils, schools have kept fee rises low and adopted a 'no frills' approach, while continuing to invest in the maintenance of boarding facilities. Seven ISC (Independent Schools Council) schools have closed or merged in the last year (TES 30/04/10).

Behaviour in 20% of schools is not good enough, official figures suggest. Some 21.3% of schools were judged to be just 'satisfactory' or 'inadequate' in terms of pupil behaviour by Ofsted inspectors last year, according to statistics published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, now the DfE ([Independent 23/04/10](#))

The number of children in Bradford schools who do not speak English as their first language has soared, by more than 1,200 in a year. New data from the Department for Education has shown a total of 27,582 pupils having a first language that is not English. This equates to 43.1% of primary pupils and 30.3% of secondary school pupils. Teaching unions are urging more investment to bolster the number of teaching and support staff. The influx of new pupils has led to some schools locally being asked to take extra pupils, increase their admission numbers and in some cases to create new classes. Among the languages spoken by non-English speakers are: Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Pashto, Gujarati, Hindko, Slovak and Arabic (T&A 17/05/10).

FURTHER EDUCATION NEWS...

Women college principals are more likely than their male counterparts to lose their jobs when colleges merge, according to new research by the Women's Leadership Network. In the last year, eight principal posts have gone in college mergers, with seven of them being held by women. However, it was also the case that in three of the cases where women lost out they did so to other women. The proportion of women principals in FE has stayed at 36% for the second year running, despite women comprising 60% of the college managers and 64% of the workforce (TES 30/04/10).

Students may be behaving less well because the recession is making vocational courses seem less relevant, when there is little chance of getting a job, according to a year-long study of behaviour in further education establishments by a researcher from Trent University. The lack of jobs was found to be a demotivating factor which affected classroom behaviour, combined with pressure on college finances leading to rising class sizes and less individual attention. It was also found that where employment prospects were lowest, the problem of motivation was highest. The problem was seen to be more about lack of motivation rather than 'bad behaviour' (TES 30/04/10).

Open Days

Calderdale College: for 2011 entry – 19 October 2010, 16 November 2010, 8 February 2011, 17 May 2011. Taster days 27 November 2010, 12 March 2011

New Courses

Kirklees College: BTEC Level 3 in IT Fast Track, one year. For details contact Pat Foster T: 01484 437070 E: infohc@kirkleescollege.ac.uk

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS...

The ASDAN Community Volunteering Qualification (CVQ) Level 3 certificate is worth 50 UCAS points W: www.asdan.org.uk

UCAS applicants who **applied before the 15 January application closing date** (extended to 22 January due to the severe weather conditions) **will have received all their offers by now and should have made their replies.** If for any reason students have failed to reply to their offers they will have been declined automatically on 5 May. Students in this situation will have had 14 days to contact UCAS to change this (UCAS 05/10).

Late UCAS applicants can apply up to 30 June 2010; after this date applications will go straight into Clearing (UCAS 05/10).

The final date for UCAS Extra applications is July 2010 and is available to applicants who have used all five choices on their original application and have been either unsuccessful at all choices or declined their offers. Extra for students is explained on the UCAS website W: www.ucas.com/students/afteryouapply/extra and in the advisers' section W: www.ucas.com/advisers/sixsteps/offers/extra

In the Complete University Guide the ranking for local universities are ([Ind 20/05/10](#)):

- University of Leeds is ranked 27th
- University of Bradford 61st

- University of Huddersfield 67th
- Leeds Metropolitan University 85th

For the top 10 Universities by Subject see W: www.independent.co.uk

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has said it is halving a planned increase in students from 20,000 to 10,000. The cut in numbers, which relate to England, will save £118m. The axe will fall mainly on 'Stem' subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – since this is where the previous government had planned to concentrate the increase ([FT 24/05/10](#)).

Part-time students are not receiving the information, advice and guidance they need to progress their careers, according to research by HECSU (Higher Education Careers Services Unit). Many get advice from their employer or friends and family rather than professional advice ([ICG 04/06/10](#)).

Other Courses

University of Bradford: vocational summer school, 20 – 24 July 2010. For details see W: www.brad.ac.uk

Open Days

University of Bradford: Saturday 3 July; Saturday 2 October.

University of Huddersfield: Saturday 21 August; Saturday 18 September; Wednesday 27 October; Thursday 28 October.

Leeds Metropolitan University: Friday 2 July; Saturday 23 October; Sunday 24 October.

Leeds Trinity University College: Wednesday 30 June; Wednesday 15 September; Saturday 2 October; Saturday 23 October.

University of Leeds: Friday 25 June; Saturday 26 June; Tuesday 9 September.

York St John University: Monday 5 July; Saturday 21 August; Wednesday 25 August; Saturday 11 September; Saturday 23 October; Wednesday 27 October. All between 10am and 3pm.

LIFELONG LEARNING...

Staff skills have improved due to union-led projects, according to a survey by Leeds University for unionlearn, the Trades Union Congress's learning organisation. Of 415 employers surveyed, covering more than a million staff, 68% said that the union-led projects had led to employees with little history of previous learning, taking up courses which improved skills ([TES 30/04/10](#)).

STUDENT FINANCE...

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2010 school leavers starting on Foundation Learning Tier (e2e as was) will be means tested but existing learners will continue to receive the allowance until the end of their course or 10 January 2011, whichever comes first ([LSC 04/10](#)).

Students are facing rises of up to £1,000 a year in tuition fees under plans being drawn up by an official review that could eventually allow universities to charge the full cost of a degree ([Ti 02/05/10](#)).

The deadline for applying for student finance for higher education is 25 June 2010

The chairman and chief executive of the Student Loans Company resigned after the universities minister David Willetts said he had no confidence in them. By the start of the 2009/10 academic year a third of students had still to be assessed ([Ti 26/05/10](#)).



HEALTH

HEALTH PROBLEMS/DISABILITY...

A survey by autism charity Treehouse found that 58% of parents or carers of autistic children had received criticism from passers-by for their child's behaviour.

Around 87% of parents or carers felt a lack of support from their community and 32% declared that their child had suffered exclusion from a recreational club or activity due to their autism. The survey also found that more than 25% of the public believed that autistic children are just naughty and only 14% knew that 1 in 100 children has autism. Treehouse has launched a campaign called Talk About Autism, hoping to improve public understanding of autism (CYPN 28/04/10).

Young men who suffer from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) do not receive proper attention from support services, according to a new study. The research project was carried out by the School for Policy Studies in conjunction with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and the Duchenne Family Support Group and used information from interviews with 40 young DMD sufferers and their families.

Around 33% of the interviewees spent their days at home and were not engaged in any kind of employment, education or training. Most found it hard to find employment and their access to social activities was very limited. Their parents felt dissatisfied with the support services available, in particular the lack of a formal transition service for DMD sufferers. Around 66% of parents felt that they did not receive enough information about the options available to their sons in the future. DMD is an inherited neuromuscular disease that causes physical and occasionally learning difficulties in boys. Around 100 boys are born with DMD every year in the UK. Currently there are around 1,500 known cases (CYPN 11/05/10).

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) has announced that 33% of elected MPs signed its pre-election campaign to make help and support for deaf children a priority. In the average constituency approximately 2,500 children have hearing problems. The MPs who signed made a promise to combat the inequality in education experienced by deaf children and also to improve support for their families (CYPN 13/05/10).



LAW, YOUR RIGHTS and CITIZENSHIP

Social workers in England have seen a sharp rise in the number of child safety worries brought to their attention, according to research by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). The number of warnings from the public or other professionals about children at risk has risen by 25% since the end of 2007. The research also found that emergency protection orders for children increased by 32% ([BBC 19/04/10](#)).

Key points in the Queen's Speech include [\(BBC 25/05/10\)](#):

- Extending the academy school programme
- Making it easier to set up 'free schools' outside of state control
- Greater freedom over the curriculum
- Increased National Insurance rates for employers and employees
- Rise in income tax personal allowance
- Scrapping ID cards
- Limiting non-EU immigration
- Removing 'barriers to flexible working and promote equal pay'
- Cutting the number of quangos
- Simplifying the benefits system
- Raising the state pension age to 66 earlier
- Restoring the link between pensions and earnings
- Part-privatisation of Royal Mail
- Elected police chiefs



MONEY

Child Trust Funds are to be scrapped [\(BBC 24/05/10\)](#).



WHERE to GET HELP

INFORMATION...

Wakefield District Housing tenants are being offered advice on education, employment and finance. The Smarter Lifestyle programme has proved such a success in Eastmoor that it is now being rolled out to other areas across the district. Support offered ranges from employment training to debt advice plus help in buying basic household items that every home should have, such as cookers, fridge freezers and washing machines (WE 21/05/10). For more information contact One-Call on T: 0845 507507



WORK AND TRAINING

TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE...

The Low Pay Commission's recommendation on the minimum wage and Apprenticeships has been accepted by the Government. From 1 October 2010, the current exemption from National Minimum Wage for apprentices will end. Future apprentices under the age of 19, or over 19 and in the first year of an Apprenticeship, will earn at least £2.50 an hour. Current apprentices earning £95 a week will be protected (WYAB 17/05/10). For details of the October 2010 minimum wage T: 0800 917 2368 W: www.direct.gov.uk

New regulations governing Programme Led Apprenticeships (PLAs) come into force in April 2011. The National Apprenticeship Scheme (NAS) will only fund programmes for a period of six months or less. If the learner secures employment within this time the placement can be converted into an Apprenticeship funded by NAS. If not, the support will cease. This change

will affect training where age restrictions mean the young person cannot be employed or where the young person has additional needs and may require longer than six months to secure employment. West Yorkshire Learning Providers, along with learning providers in other regions, is looking at the impact of this change in order to encourage NAS to look at the impact of the changes and implement transitional arrangements (WYPL 24/05/10).

Information on what's happening to e2e, Foundation Learning, EMA etc has been summarised in a pack. The pack also includes information on the raising of the participation age, the September and January guarantees and more. The summary pack is available [here](#).

United Utilities is recruiting 16 apprentices to work on the gas mains it maintains for the pipeline company Northern Gas Networks. United Utilities runs the region's gas emergency service and replaces its gas mains as required. The apprentices will be based at various depots across the region, including Heckmondwike (Sp G 02/04/10). For details W: www.unitedutilities.com/apprentices

Premier Training has launched an Apprenticeship scheme. The scheme is due to start this month and will train young people as fitness instructors ([ICG 28/05/10](#)).

Kirklees Parks and Open Spaces is increasing the number of apprentices it is recruiting this year. Kirklees will be taking on 10 extra apprentices through the GreenSkills Apprenticeship scheme run by CABE (Commission for Architecture and Built Environment). The horticultural apprentices will work towards an NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture and will receive £95 a week (SpG 16/04/10). For details W: www.kirklees.gov.uk

Calderdale Training: open day for 2011 entry, 5 April 2011

WORK TRENDS NATIONAL...

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) rose by 53,000 in April, bringing the total to 2.51m. The number of 16 to 24 year olds out of work rose by 18,000 to 941,000 (HDE 13/05/10).

The National Skills Audit report warns that the UK needs to identify and prioritise future skill needs if the economy is to recover. The report by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills found that:

- The number of people 'not fully proficient at their job' rose from 1.3m in 2005 to 1.7m in 2009
- Leadership and management skills, and technical skills are particularly in need of improvement
- Growth in 'highly skilled jobs' is one of the lowest in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- Around 20% of the 80,000 employers surveyed said they had some staff who were not fully proficient. Two possible reasons were cited for this, including workers' roles expanding as companies make redundancies, along with employers moving into more productive, higher skilled industries.

Among the sectors most likely to have skills gaps are hotels and catering, manufacturing, retail and wholesale, and health and social work. Train to Gain is one of the Government's training initiatives, but it has failed to be used by many employers. Around 61% of employers know about Train to Gain, but only 11% have used it, with figures being weighted towards large companies rather than the small businesses it was originally intended to help (HDE 28/04/10, TES 12/03/10).

The number of 16 to 24 year olds out of work rose by 18,000 between January and March, to 941,000, compared with the three months to December 2009 ([YWN 17/05/10](#)).

The future of the network of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) is still in the balance. All except two have been re-licensed. Skillsfast, the SSC for fashion and textiles has since merged with Skillset, the SSC for the creative sector. Government Skills refused to extend its remit beyond the Civil Service to include local government. It has decided instead to try and rely on funding from government employers ([PT 27/05/10](#)).

The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils has identified six key areas that individual Councils and other interested parties need to tackle to make the skills system 'truly demand-led' ([ICG 26/04/10](#)).

They are:

- Put employers at the heart of the skills system
- Support employers to drive a simplified skills system that is flexible, responsive and collaborative
- Support Sector Skills Councils to meet the needs of employers no matter what the sector, size or location in the UK
- Ensure skills policy and strategy are based on sectoral analysis and understanding of the labour market
- Ensure UK qualification strategies are shaped to meet the needs of employers
- Ensure all development and delivery of skills, training and learning is demand-led

The number of employers operating a recruitment freeze has fallen sharply from 37% in August/September to just 5%, according to a survey by the CBI/Harvey Nash. Just 2% of employers in professional services, banking, finance and insurance were operating a freeze on hiring. The most likely employers to be operating a freeze were retailers – 13% and construction companies – 10% (Rec 24/05/10).

Around 45% of employers said they were finding it hard to recruit people with skills in science, technology, engineering and maths, according to a CBI (Confederation of British Industry) survey of 200 firms employing 2.4m people. Some 33% felt they would struggle to fill intermediate level jobs and 30% felt their need for lower level skills would fall, with just 17% expecting their need for lower level skills to increase (HDE 17/05/10).

Sainsbury's has launched a 'groundbreaking' move to create 100 new jobs in property, construction and engineering ([YEP 06/05/10](#)).

Around 45% of final year students at the UK's top universities view their career prospects as 'very limited', a survey suggests. The poll of 16,000 finalists found 33% feared last year's graduates would take up most of the vacancies. In the research by High Fliers, over 16% said they would not have gone to university if they had known how tough the jobs market was going to be. The media, teaching and marketing were the top three graduate career choices for students graduating in 2010 - as they were for 2009. Applications for jobs in information technology (IT) and engineering were down 5% and 11% respectively on last year.

For the second year running, graduate salary expectations have dropped, with final year job hunters expecting to earn an average of £22,000 for their first job, 3.1% less than in 2008. Students with the highest salary expectations were law students who expected to earn an average starting salary of £24,800. Next were computing and IT students, who anticipated an average starting salary of £24,300. Engineering students expected to get £24,300, and business and finance students £23,200. Finalists with the lowest salary expectations were arts or humanities students who, on average, expected to get a starting salary of £19,700, and those studying languages who reckoned on salaries of £20,900 ([BBC 27/05/10](#)).

Research into graduate earnings from a range of sources indicates that graduates earn more than non-graduates. The average extra graduate earnings vary depending on the subject studied but averages can be misleading as 'one graduate working in the same field

or even the same job ... can easily earn one-third less than some colleagues'. The average extra earnings during a lifetime by subject compared with non-graduates are:

- Medicine £340,000
- Law; Engineering £245,000
- Maths £240,000
- Physics £190,000
- Chemistry; Business £185,000
- European languages £165,000
- Psychology £100,000
- English; Linguistics £95,000
- Humanities £50,000
- Arts £35,000

Regardless of degree, earnings grow at a constant rate in the first few years of work but for some subjects eg chemistry, earnings grow rapidly in the middle years. In 2008, average earnings were as follows:

Age	Degree or equivalent	A level or equivalent
21-22	£17,472	£15,912
23-24	£20,696	£18,200
25-26	£24,960	£20,436
27-28	£28,912	£22,256
29-30	£32,916	£24,180
31-32	£34,632	£24,336
32-33	£37,960	£27,768
21-34 (all)	£28,860	£21,268

On average graduates earn 23% more during their lifetime - £3,600 a year. Women tend to benefit more from a degree boosting their earnings by 63% compared with 43% for men. There are downsides, debt from degree study can take at least 12 years to pay back, students drop out of university and 33% of graduates end up with non-graduate jobs. But on average degrees are worth 12.1% a year, better than most other investments ([Yahoo 14/05/10](#)).

Catering & Hospitality

Greene King, the brewer and pub retailer, is recruiting 50 new graduates to its three year training scheme. The trainees will become house managers and will go on to run some of the company's branded hotels, pubs and restaurants, which include Loch Fyne, Hungry Horse, Hardy's House and Old English Inns ([ICG 28/05/10](#)).

Computers & IT

Jobs in IT continue to increase, including temporary and contract jobs ([CW 30/04/10](#)).

Small and medium sized IT firms are expected to create at least 84,000 jobs in 2010, according to research by Barclays Bank. Up to 20,000 of these could be Apprenticeships ([CW 30/04/10](#)).

IT outsourcing is set to increase in 2010, with over 50% of businesses that already outsource intending to increase their IT outsourcing this year. Around 60% of businesses intend to outsource services that are currently done in-house ([CW 30/04/10](#)).

UK IT staff lack the 'required skills' so firms are having to recruit from abroad. The number of human resources professionals agreeing with this statement rose from 39% in 2008 to 51% in 2010, according to a survey by Nat West ([CW 30/04/10](#)).

Education & Training

The University and College Union (UCU) has warned of the possibility of three years of industrial unrest as the number of jobs at risk from funding cuts totals around 3,453, around half of which are expected to be compulsory redundancies.

Further reports from the Association of Colleges has warned that cuts of £340m could lead to 7,000 redundancies. Some colleges are approaching the problem by restructuring and cutting courses, whereas others are said to be making bigger cuts than may be necessary. Many staff at colleges are expected to take part in strike action over the coming weeks (TES 30/04/10).

The number of British-trained teachers seeking jobs in international schools has doubled recently, from 41,500 in 2005 to a new high of 70,000. The exodus has been fuelled by a huge boom in the number of teaching opportunities particularly in Central and East Asia. The number of English-medium international schools has also leapt from 1,700 to 5,400 in the past 10 years, according to ISC (Independent Schools Council) Research, which monitors international school data. This 'brain drain' to a booming international sector could force the Government to rethink its decision to reduce the numbers it recruits for secondary teacher training. If not, Britain could be forced to import teachers from countries such as South Africa and Jamaica as it has done in the past. Statistics show that there are 5,400 English-medium international schools, with 2,578 in the Middle East and Asia, and the biggest growth areas being: India and Pakistan, UEA, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore (TES 19/03/10).

Engineering

BT intends to cut 5,000 jobs in 2010; the company has already cut 35,000 jobs since 2008 (HDE 10/05/10).

Dyson is increasing its engineering team from 350 to 700. The plan is to increase its research and development team at its Wiltshire laboratories and many will be new graduates. The company is recruiting design engineers, mechanical engineers and acoustic engineers. The number employed by Dyson in the UK will rise to 1,600; the company employs 2,500 people worldwide ([ICG 30/04/10](#)).

Financial Services

Northern Rock is cutting 650 jobs by the end of 2010 as part of its restructuring ready for returning to the private sector. The company, which currently employs 4,500 people, hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies 'wherever possible' ([BBC 08/06/10](#)).

Cattles plc, the Birstall-based financial firm, is cutting a further 155 jobs, on top of 382 announced earlier, at its Welcome Financial Services arm. Cattles has already stopped accepting new business at Welcome and is 'running down its loan book'. The number of operational management and support staff will be reduced and 18 branches will close. The latest cuts take the number of job losses at Welcome to 2,450. Welcome provides loans to people on low income (HDE 14/05/10, T&A 21/05/10).

RBS is cutting a further 2,600 jobs from its insurance and retail business. This means RBS has cut 22,600 jobs since October 2008. Some of the latest jobs lost will go to India ready for RBS to float on the stock market. RBS blamed EU regulators as they insisted RBS must sell off its insurance arm – which includes Direct Line, Churchill and Green Flag, and 318 of its bank branches ([GD 12/05/10](#)).

RBS made a further announcement about job cuts. It is cutting 500 jobs at its wealth management unit, which includes Coutts & Co in London and Adam & Company in Edinburgh ([BBC 02/06/10](#)).

Royal Sun Alliance is creating 230 jobs. The insurance giant is creating the jobs in the City of London following a deal to provide pet insurance through Tesco supermarket ([BBC 12/05/10](#)).

Manufacturing & Production

Hewlett Packard is cutting 9,000 jobs in various countries over three years when it fully automates all its data centres. Over time, 6,000 new jobs will be created by the company ([BBC 01/06/2010](#)).

Industrial output rose by 2% in March when compared with February. Analysts had expected the rise to be as little as 0.3%. The transport and metal sectors of manufacturing did particularly well. The weak pound is helping the recovery but a “credible plan to repair public finances” is needed to reassure markets, according to the chief economist of the EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation ([BBC 12/05/10](#)).

Media, Print & Publishing

News International is to scale back the Sunday Times in Scotland and make its editorial team redundant. The 20 commercial jobs on the paper will be affected ([TD 12/05/10](#)).

Science, Maths & Statistics

Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company, is cutting 6,000 jobs worldwide over the next five years. The cuts are due to a major restructure, which will include the closure of eight plants and the scaling back of six others. Three plants will go in the Irish Republic with the loss of 785 jobs. Its plants in Havant in Kent and Newbridge, County Kildare will be scaled back ([BBC 18/05/10](#)).

WORK TRENDS REGIONAL...

The jobless total for the region rose by 18,000 to 941,000, the highest figure since 1992 ([HDE 13/05/10](#)).

Riley Toffee Roll Confection has plans to create 200 jobs in Yorkshire by opening a toffee making factory, possibly in Wakefield or Kirklees (YP 13/05/10).

FOCUS ON BRADFORD...

Sovereign Health Care, the healthcare cash plan group based in Bradford, is expecting to lift sales by 30% in the coming year and is looking to boost customer numbers from 70,000 to 100,000 in the next few years. The company, which has operated in Bradford since 1873, has been relatively unaffected by the economic downturn, having increased its customer base by 5,000 last year, and achieving a turnover of £10.8m. Traditionally customers have been within a 70 mile radius of Bradford, but a new online application procedure has expanded its geographical base (T&A 17/05/10).

Pace has been confirmed as the world’s number one supplier of set-top boxes, having shipped 17.2m boxes to international pay TV operators in 2009, and demand is growing as the football world cup approaches. The company employs 450 of its 1,100 global workforce at Salts Mill, where new products are devised and developed. Last year was a record year for Pace, with sales up by 52% and pre-tax profits up by 405% to £69.9m (T&A 25/05/10).

Morrish Solicitors, based in Broadway, Bradford, is re-branding to become QualitySolicitors Morrish. The firm expanded into Bradford a year ago, and is joining 14 other re-branded local law firms to create a new national high street legal "superbrand". Overall around 200 local law firms across the UK are expected to join the network and re-brand under the new name. The move follows the introduction of new legislation which, from next year, will allow major retailers to enter the legal market. It is hoped that the new 'superbrand' will be better placed to fight off threats from supermarkets which are expected to start offering legal services (T&A 21/05/10).

Job Gains

Alpha Media Solutions, which employs 85 people at its base in Tyersal has upgraded its specialist printing processes and has taken on two new staff as a result (T&A 12/05/10).

ENER-G Switch2, which supplies meters for communal heating schemes and provides billing and energy-use analysis for social and commercial landlords, is to create 20 new jobs over the next year (T&A 21/05/10).

Job Losses

Bradford College staff are taking part in a 24 hour strike in an attempt to convince their bosses to abandon a programme of redundancies that has been put in place.

A spokesman for the College has said that the cuts are being made to save £3m to cover a shortfall in funding. This amounts to the equivalent of around 97 posts (T&A 06/05/10).

FOCUS ON CALDERDALE & KIRKLEES...

In April, the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Huddersfield fell by 150 to 3,446. **Dewsbury** figures also fell by 68 to 2,739 and **Colne Valley's** rose by 158 to 2,556. The number of people out of work and claiming benefits in Calderdale fell by 230 to 6,076. In **Halifax** the claimant figure is 3,624 and in the **Calder Valley** it is 2,452 (HDE 13/05/10, HEC 14/05/10).

Brighouse Textiles (Wholesale) Ltd and **The Bottoms Mill Company Ltd** have gone into liquidation (HDE 07/05/10).

GF Group, the specialist joinery and shopfitting shop in Brighouse, has been bought from administrators by its former owner safeguarding 30 jobs. When the company went into administration, 90 jobs were lost. It is hoped that some of these jobs will be re-created when 'market conditions allow'. The company is now trading as GF Interiors (HDE 30/04/10, HEC 29/04/10).

Reactiv Media, the direct marketing company, moved to larger premises in Elland. The company has grown from employing four to over 50 staff since June 2007 (HEC 29/04/10).

Job Gains

Asda is expanding its Halifax store with the creation of 50 full and part-time jobs (HEC 29/04/10).

Job Losses

Kirklees College is cutting 20 jobs as a result of funding cuts of around £800,000. The cuts are in both teaching and administrative jobs. In addition the college will no longer run adult education courses at seven centres – Slaithwaite, Rawthorpe, Huddersfield New College, Irish Centre,

St Patrick's Catholic Centre, the Learning Zone, Islamia School, and a rationalisation in Birkby. Most of the job cuts will be voluntary redundancies or early retirement. The new site for the college in Huddersfield, off Chapel Hill, will still go ahead. The college is focusing on moving towards 'centres of excellence' with 'fewer buildings', 'better equipped classrooms' and 'better access to central support' (HDE 28/04/10).

Fox's Biscuits is cutting 50 jobs during 2010 as part of an 18 month modernisation programme, which will eventually see 200 jobs going at the Wellington Street plant in Batley. Owner Northern Foods is also cutting jobs at the other two Fox's plants – Uttoxeter in Staffordshire and Kirkham near Blackpool. Around 100 jobs will go at Uttoxeter and though Kirkham will lose jobs, there will also be 80 jobs created. Plans to close the Batley plant altogether, where 900 people are employed, have been put on hold (HDE 24/04/10).

Nethercoats, the Halifax-based commercial and retail interiors specialist, has gone into administration putting 42 jobs at risk (HEC 19/04/10).

Tony's Textiles closed after 15 years in Dewsbury. The company says that 'people aren't going into Dewsbury anymore'. The firm will continue to trade online where business is doing well. Online trade is run from its Hull base and if this continues to do well, a similar online base may be opened in Dewsbury (DR 16/04/10).

Ethel Austin is closing its Dewsbury store. The company went into administration and sold 90 of its stores but a buyer could not be found for 41 branches including Dewsbury (DR 09/04/10).

FOCUS ON LEEDS...

Job Gains

New details were revealed about the jobs and training boost that Leeds should get from its new concert arena They include ([YEP 23/04/10](#)):

- The creation of more than 100 new construction jobs, with 20% going to people living in Little London and other areas close to the arena's Clay Pit Lane site
- Sub-contracting work for more than 20 Leeds businesses
- The initiation of 60 new apprenticeships
- Opening up the construction site for regular educational visits from schools and colleges.

The Original Factory Shop, the low-price department store chain, has opened a new shop in Otley creating 20 new jobs ([YEP 19/04/10](#)).

Cath Kidston, the vintage homewares shop, has opened a new store in the centre of Leeds creating 15 new jobs ([BD 22/04/10](#)).

Waitrose is to open a new store in Meanwood and will bring 180 jobs to the area ([YEP 19/05/10](#)).

Job Losses

Pontifex, one of the oldest engineering firms in Leeds, has announced plans to close after more than 200 years in the city with a loss of 12 jobs ([YEP 21/04/10](#)).

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has announced that 700 jobs will be axed by 2014 ([YP 21/05/10](#)).

FOCUS ON WAKEFIELD...

Labour Market Data for the month of March 2010 has shown that the number of people not in employment and claiming Job seekers Allowance (JSA) fell by 397 to 9,010 taking the claimant count rate to 4.5%. Over the preceding 12 months, Wakefield District's claimant count fell by 0.7% compared with a 5.4% increase nationally. During the same period, the number of job seekers has fallen in 11 of the district's 21 wards. As a proportion of the resident working age population, the claimant count continues to be highest around central Wakefield and the former coalfield areas. Small area data shows that in some neighbourhoods around 11 % of the working age population are not in employment and claiming JSA.

Youth unemployment remains high with 3,040 (34% of total claimants) not in employment and claiming JSA. However over the month, the number of jobless young people claiming JSA fell by 5.22% (160) against a national figure of 3.7%, and is down by 3.3% (100) on the year compared with a 1.9 % rise for the country as a whole. In the South Kirkby, South Elmsall and Pontefract South wards, young people represent over 40% of JSA claimants. Long term unemployment in the Wakefield district is below the regional and national averages but has increased by more than 100% over the last year (545). The top five occupations advertised in Jobcentres were for sales representatives – 300; care assistants/home carers – 202; heavy goods vehicle drivers – 150; other goods handling & storage occupations – 119 and cleaners/domestics – 96 (WCR&PUB 03/10).

Job Gains

Lidl will open a new supermarket in Featherstone next February and 20 to 25 jobs will be created (P&CE 27/05/10).

Birchwood Farm pub restaurant will open in June in Glasshoughton creating 70 new jobs (P&CE 27/05/10).

SOURCES

BBC	www.news.bbc.co.uk
BD	Business Desk
CEIAG	CEIAG Newsletter
CW	Computer Weekly
CYPN	Children & Young People Now
DR	Dewsbury Reporter
GD	The Guardian/online
HEC	Halifax Evening Courier
HDE	Huddersfield Daily Examiner
ICG	Institute of Career Guidance
LSC	Learning & Skills Council
NWY	nextstep in West Yorkshire bulletin
P&CE	Pontefract and Castleford Express
PT	Personnel Today
Rec	Recruiter
SpG	Spensborough Guardian
TD	The Drum
T&A	Telegraph & Argus
TES	Times Educational Supplement
Ti	The Times/online
UCAS	UCAS mailing list/press release
WCR&PUB	Wakefield Council Research & Policy Unemployment Bulletin

WE Wakefield Express
WYAB West Yorkshire Apprenticeship Bulletin
WYLP WYLP E-Bulletin
YEP Yorkshire Evening Post
YP Yorkshire Post

We hope you enjoyed this edition of West Yorkshire Careers News and found it informative. Please note: **West Yorkshire Careers News is also available on the company websites below.** Comments and articles are welcome; please contact the careers company in your area:

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