



**This is the summer edition of our Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) Seasonal Newsletter for 2024, and I hope this communication finds you safe and well.**

**As we look back on the last quarter, we are pleased to see continued growth, optimism, and activity across the regional economy in Southeast Wales. However, global conflict remains a concern for us all in both humanitarian and economic situations.**

Businesses in the region still seem to be facing challenges recruiting qualified and competent staff and addressing skills gaps and shortages remains a top priority as we move through the summer and into the autumn.

We are delighted to see the progress made with our 'Prosperity through Partnership' Employment and Skills Plan, which was launched just 18 months ago. We are actively working through our Board and employer-led cluster groups to address the challenges and opportunities identified by industry.

The purpose of this communication is to keep you updated on the latest skills related developments within the CCRSP and we hope you find the content informative.

Lastly, we would like to wish you an enjoyable summer season from the Employment and Skills Board and project management team.

**Leigh Hughes,  
Chair of the CCRSP Employment and Skills Board**





# Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2024

Apprenticeship Awards Cymru (AAC) took place on 22 March 2024 and rewarded individuals, learning providers and employers who excelled in contributing to the development of the Welsh Government's Employability and Apprenticeship programmes across Wales.

The Welsh Government and the National Training Federation for Wales (NTfW) organised the hugely successful event which took place at the prestigious ICC Wales.

The awards event provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase and celebrate the achievements of those who exceeded expectations, showed a dynamic approach to training, and demonstrated initiative and enterprise to the improvement of skills development for the Welsh economy.

Award categories included Foundation Apprentice of the Year, Apprentice of the Year, Higher Apprentice of the Year, Tomorrow's Talent, Small to Medium Employer of the Year (1-249 employees) and Large and Macro Employer of the Year.

The CCRSP would like to congratulate all the finalists and single out the success of the following winners from Southeast Wales:

- Gwynfor Harley Jones, Foundation Apprentice of the Year with Welcome to our Woods (WTOW)
- Laura Chapman, Apprentice of the Year with MotoNovo Finance
- Transport for Wales, Large Employer of the Year
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Macro Employer of the Year
- Anne Reardon-James, WBL Practitioner of the Year with Panda Education and Training

For more information and full details of the winners and finalists visit [www.gov.wales/apprenticeship-awards-cymru/winners-and-finalists/2024-awards](http://www.gov.wales/apprenticeship-awards-cymru/winners-and-finalists/2024-awards)



# Behind the scenes: Creative Bridgend 2024

The Employability Bridgend event, Creative Bridgend, connected attendees with the creative sector, allowing them to explore opportunities, experience the industry, express their interests, and expand their creative network.

In April, the Creative Bridgend: Behind the Scenes event took place at Bowls Hall, Halo Life Centre, with great success.

The event attracted a large audience of around 500 talented artists, performers, and creative minds from Bridgend and beyond. The event featured a variety of activities, including visual arts exhibitions, live music performances, workshops and masterclass sessions, and talks and discussions on art, creativity, and the cultural landscape of Bridgend.

The event not only showcased artistic talent but also served as a platform for community engagement and economic stimulation, attracting visitors from the region and boosting local businesses. The success of Creative Bridgend has paved the way for future events, with organisers planning to expand the programme and offer a wider range of experiences for participants.

If you missed the event, stay tuned to the [It's My Shout](#) website and Employability Bridgend social media channels for updates on the next event.

If you would like to learn more about how Employability Bridgend can help you find a job in the creative industry or other sectors, please contact the team at 01656 815317 or email [employability@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:employability@bridgend.gov.uk).



# CCRSP 2023-24 Achievement Report

The CCRSP is delighted to be able to share its annual Achievement Report for 2023-24.



This report aims to highlight some of the key deliverables and successes against the cross-cutting themes set out in the CCRSP Employment and Skills Plan 2022-25.

Namely:

1. Strengthening the post-16 education offer in priority sectors through increased specialisation to meet the demand from employers across the City Region.
2. Broadening the apprenticeship offer at higher levels by responding to government policy changes.
3. Engaging with key stakeholders when delivering Wales's employability agenda and targeting individuals furthest away from the labour market.
4. Promoting digital technology as a key 'enabling' sector and creating a workforce that has the digital skills, capability, and confidence to excel in the workplace.
5. Developing skills to support the transition towards a low carbon economy.
6. Influencing the work of Qualifications Wales and maximising opportunities to ensure that emerging qualifications meet industry needs.
7. Building on approaches to careers education, information, advice and guidance to address issues of sector perception and promoting key sectors as viable career options.

The document also reports on the progress made against a range of priority sector challenges and opportunities again set through the Employment and Skills Plan. Related interventions have supported economic growth across the region through enhanced productivity.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the CCRSP successfully delivered a range of activities across the post-16 education sector and further detail can be reviewed in the Achievement Report via the following [link](#).





# Youth-friendly employment and skills plan and career guides

**In November 2022, the CCRSP published an Employment & Skills Plan (2022–2025) which set out the skills related challenges and opportunities for the key sectors across southeast Wales.**

More recently and funded through the Welsh Government Young Persons Guarantee (YPG) workstream, the CCRSP has produced a youth-friendly version of the plan using simplified language and visual aids. This has helped to ensure that young people are able to better understand and relate with the content, thus inspiring and motivating a broader audience.

**We are delighted to share the final versions, and for your convenience, we have enclosed links that will direct you to the corresponding pages on our website:**

- **Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership ([ccrsp.co.uk](https://ccrsp.co.uk))**
- **Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd Partneriaeth Sgiliau ([ccrsp.co.uk](https://ccrsp.co.uk))**

The CCRSP invites organisations to utilise their networks and share this information more broadly.

The revised version of the Employment and Skills Plan 2022-25 provides a valuable insight into the key sectors across southeast Wales and the challenges and opportunities they face.

As a follow-up activity, and to further enhance our youth-friendly Employment and Skills Plan, we are also in the process of producing a range of sector focussed career guides for advanced materials and manufacturing, compound semiconductors, construction, creative and the foundational economy.

These will be produced in a flip-book style and will clearly outline the priority sectors across the Cardiff Capital Region.

The documents will provide details about the sector's impact on the region, the job roles on offer and a corresponding careers roadmap.

The guides will help young people to make well-informed decisions about their future and equip them for prosperous careers.

As soon as the career guides are available, we will share them with our networks and stakeholders.



## CCR SPF funded Cluster Development and Growth Programme (CDGP)

**The Cluster Growth and Development Programme (CDGP) is a £6.6 million initiative funded by the Cardiff Capital Region and the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).**



It aims to boost economic development in Southeast Wales through three projects: a skills programme, academic-industry partnerships, and a business growth programme. Projects will run through to March 2025.

The skills programme, led by Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC), has provided focus on the digital, net zero and advanced manufacturing sectors and has been driven by a network of stakeholders including PWC, HE, FE and specialist skills providers.

Through the CDGP, and over the last few months, CAVC and PWC have been engaging with employers and key industry bodies to identify skills gaps as part of the 'discovery phase'.

This research will then inform the development of targeted skills interventions which will be offered through to March 2025. Tackling skills shortages in key areas will create meaningful impact across priority clusters and wider investment programmes, as well as driving inward investment across the CCR.

A range of employer-led initiatives are now in development which will help address key skills shortages and create new talent pools for in-demand jobs.

An executive summary and detailed version of the CDGP Discovery Phase Report is now available [\*\*online\*\*](#).

## Funded training to enhance workplace Welsh language proficiency.

The learn Welsh sector is managed by the National Centre for Learning Welsh, which partners with eleven providers to deliver courses at various proficiency levels.

You can find all courses available in your area via the following link:

[Find a course | Learn Welsh](#)

The Centre also provides funding to establish Welsh language training in workplaces through their Work Welsh scheme with the aim to enhance workplace proficiency in Welsh.

Work Welsh provides employers with fully subsidised, flexible, and diverse training options.

There are numerous alternatives available to accommodate learners of all skill levels, ranging from tutor-led virtual and face-to-face classes, online self-study, and residential for more advanced learners.



To find out more, please visit [Work Welsh Services on the Learn Welsh website](#).

