



As we move through the early part of the year, momentum across the Cardiff Capital Region continues to build - driven by strong partnerships, sector insight, and a shared commitment to preparing our workforce for the future.

Guided by our core principle of prosperity through partnership, this season has been marked by important milestones, including the launch of our refreshed Employment and Skills Plan, which brings employer intelligence and youth voice together to shape priorities that reflect both current demand and future ambition.

Our work across the region continues to underline how vital collaboration is. The launch of the National Lottery funded Green Careers Pathway highlights the growing investment in sustainable skills, helping ensure young people can take advantage of the opportunities created by Wales's transition to a low carbon economy.

We were also proud to support Skills Competition Wales, where learners showcased remarkable talent, determination, and technical expertise-reinforcing the value of vocational excellence across our priority sectors.

Alongside this, our recent Green and Net Zero workshop at the NTFW Conference provided an important space for providers and employers to explore how sustainability can be more deeply embedded across training, curricula, and progression routes.

These conversations continue to shape our understanding of the region's evolving skills needs and inform our work with partners and Welsh Government.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on building an agile, inclusive skills system - one that is shaped by evidence, strengthened by collaboration, and responsive to the opportunities and challenges facing the Cardiff Capital Region.

Thank you to all our partners, cluster groups, and stakeholders for your continued engagement and support and I wish you all a positive and productive season.

Leigh Hughes

Chair, CCRSP Employment and Skills Board





CCRSP launches new Employment and Skills Plan focused on employers and youth

The Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) marked an important milestone on 4 February with the launch of its refreshed Employment and Skills Plan.

The event took place at the Steam Academy at Bridgend College and brought together employers, providers and partners to explore updated priorities shaped by fast moving labour market changes, Welsh Government guidance, and the growing importance of green skills.

This refresh of the plan places stronger emphasis on sector opportunities and challenges, ensuring the region remains agile, demand led, and aligned with future workforce needs.

Green skills and net zero ambitions form a key part of the update, helping prepare learners and employers for new technologies and low carbon transitions.

As part of the launch, CCRSP hosted an employer engagement session designed to test and validate emerging themes.

We repeated the same questions used during last summer's Youth Voice roadshows, enabling a direct comparison between employer views and feedback from more than 90 young people across four regional colleges. Clear alignment emerged between both groups.

This approach highlights CCRSP's commitment to planning that reflects both current employer insights and the expectations of the future workforce.

Young people and employers identified barriers that limit access to opportunities. These included transport, lack of visible career pathways, and the perception that prospects in Wales are limited.

Young people highlighted the value of communication, teamwork and creativity, while employers reinforced these priorities and raised wider progression challenges.

Together, the feedback points to a shared need for improved access, greater awareness and increased confidence among learners entering the workforce.

A notable feature of the refreshed plan is its strengthened focus on green skills, sustainability, and net zero.

Priorities include preparing people for emerging green jobs, supporting employers transitioning to low carbon practices, and ensuring training reflects new technologies and sustainable methods.

The launch event gave employers and partners space to explore how these ambitions will translate in practice and to discuss both the challenges and opportunities ahead.

By placing engagement at the heart of the launch - and elevating both employer and youth voices -the CCRSP has set a collaborative tone for the next phase. The insights gathered will directly shape delivery, ensuring the region's skills system remains aligned with industry needs, guided by learner voice, and focused on sustainability and inclusive growth.



CCRSP supports launch of National Lottery funded Green Careers Pathway

The CCRSP was delighted to attend and support the launch of Codi Group's new National Lottery funded Green Careers Pathway, a multi million pound initiative designed to open up sustainable career opportunities for young people across south Wales.

The programme, backed by £3 million from the National Lottery Community Fund, via the Dormant Assets Fund, will run over the next five years and aims to tackle Wales's growing green skills gap by creating accessible pathways into environmentally focused careers.

Led by Codi Group, the project will deliver coaching, training, work experience, paid placements, and employer connections, with a strong emphasis on supporting underrepresented groups.

More than 400 young people are expected to receive direct coaching, with hopes that over 100 will progress into green careers, and thousands more will benefit through wider awareness and youth led campaigns.

Partners across Newport and Swansea - which include community groups, employers, and local authorities - will work together to help ensure the green workforce of the future is inclusive, diverse, and ready to support Wales's transition to a net zero economy.

The CCRSP was proud to be part of the event, reinforcing our commitment to strengthening regional skills development and supporting young people into meaningful, future focused careers.



Inspiring Skills Competition Wales Showcase



In February, the CCRSP team was delighted to continue its support for Skills Competition Wales 2026, a key initiative that celebrates the outstanding talent of learners and apprentices across the region.

Held at the University of South Wales, Newport, we experienced first-hand the energy, talent and determination of competitors representing a wide range of technical disciplines. The event brought together learners from colleges and training providers across Wales, each demonstrating their skills under real world pressure and expert judging.

We were pleased to be invited by the ISE team as a thank you for our continued support. Their warm welcome and enthusiasm highlighted the value of strong partnership working in raising the profile of vocational excellence and promoting high-quality career pathways across the Cardiff Capital Region.

Competitors showcased outstanding performance across multiple construction and technical trades, including electrical installation, painting and decorating, carpentry, plastering, brickwork, and plumbing and heating. The atmosphere was vibrant, supportive, and deeply inspiring - reflecting the hard work of competitors, tutors and organisers alike.

Events such as these play an important role in celebrating skills, encouraging talent development, and strengthening industry links. The CCRSP is proud to continue supporting this programme and looks forward to future collaboration with Skills Competition Wales.

For further information on Skills Competition Wales and upcoming events visit:
<https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/competitions>





Green and Net Zero Workshop delivered at the NTFW Conference 2026

In March we led an engaging, discussion based session at the NTFW Conference.

The NTFW Conference 2026 brings together providers, employers, and partners to discuss how Wales can build a more agile and future ready skills system as the next phase of the apprenticeship programme approaches.

At the workshop delegates were split into small groups to explore the implications of Net Zero for their sectors.

Each group worked through focused questions on:

- what net zero means for their organisation
- emerging and future green skills needs
- barriers to progress
- opportunities for collaboration
- how the apprenticeship programme can better embed sustainability

Facilitators gathered insights to support the CCRSP's ongoing regional labour market intelligence work.

Key insights from delegates included:

- Rising employer demand for low carbon and sustainability focused competencies.
- A call for sustainability to be embedded across all curricula, not only in "green" industries.
- The need for stronger collaboration between providers, employers, and skills partnerships.
- Challenges such as funding, capacity, and inconsistent understanding of Net Zero pathways.

Findings from the workshop will inform CCRSP's future priorities and its work with Welsh Government and sector partners. CCRSP thanks all delegates who contributed their ideas and expertise, helping strengthen Wales' path toward a greener, more skilled workforce.

