

For immediate release
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Tackling youth unemployment with woodlands course

Twelve unemployed young people completed a course with youth charity The Prince's Trust on the Duchy of Cornwall's Hereford Estate, last week.

The young people finished the three-week Get into Woodlands course, supported by MVision, which developed their confidence, motivation and skills in forestry.

The intensive course, run with the Duchy of Cornwall, Herefordshire College of Technology and the Forestry Commission, addresses local skills shortages and aims to tackle rising levels of youth unemployment.

The three week programme allowed the young people to gain practical experience in chestnut and hazel coppicing, horse logging, tree planting and harvesting, as well as, gaining qualifications.

Last Friday, Mounir Guen, Chief Executive Officer at MVision, an independent alternative assets strategic advisory firm, visited the 12 young people at their end of course celebration event. MVision has supported The Prince's Trust since early 2010 and for a second year supported the Get into Woodlands programme which provides young people to gain the skills they need to start a career in forestry.

He said: "It is essential for these young people to recognise that there are a multitude of people who care and are there to support them, as they are the future. MVision is invested in assisting The Prince's Trust in enabling young people to find sustainable jobs within their communities, and what better way than to direct their attention than to another area that is of concern: the environment.

"We are pleased that our initial support of the Get into Woodlands pilot programme was such a resounding success and are proud to have continued our support for a second year for a course which directly trains and connects young people with jobs in the woodland management sector, a sector in desperate need of qualified workers."

The Trust offers practical and financial support, giving young people the confidence and skills they need to realise their potential and transform their futures.

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Notes to editors:

Youth charity The Prince's Trust helps disadvantaged young people to get their lives on track. It supports 13 to 30 year-olds who are unemployed and those struggling at school and at risk of exclusion. Many of the young people helped by The Prince's Trust are in or leaving care, facing issues such as homelessness or mental health problems, or they have been in trouble with the law. The Trust's programmes give vulnerable young people the practical and financial support needed to stabilise their lives, helping develop self-esteem and skills for work. Three in four young people supported by The Prince's Trust move into work, education or training. The Prince of Wales's charity has helped more than 700,000 young people since 1976 and supports 100 more each day. Further information about The Prince's Trust is available at princes-trust.org.uk or on 0800 842 842.