

Signing on for a career

Jobless youngsters are being thrown an employment lifeline with the launch of a local apprenticeship scheme.

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A construction industry apprenticeships scheme is bringing high-quality training and long-term, sustainable job prospects to local people.

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Young people in Croydon are already learning “on the job” as apprentices on two major building projects – Bernard Weatherill House in central Croydon, and the Waddon development.

Both are part of the council’s partnership with John Laing under the CCurv banner.

CCurv has worked with construction companies Sir Robert McAlpine and Wates on these two major schemes

to ensure local people are benefiting from training opportunities.

Apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills and nationally recognised qualifications.

Sir Robert McAlpine has taken on an apprentice in its Croydon project office and another two have been placed with sub-contractor Imtech Meica Ltd.

In addition, through work with Job Centre Plus and New Addington Construction Skills Centre, eight young people have been offered full-time jobs at the Bernard Weatherill House site.

On the Waddon site, 7% of the workforce is on training schemes, and three apprentice tradesmen have been placed with sub-contractors. The Waddon team has consistently exceeded its target of having 20% of its workforce made up of local people.

During the recent National

Apprenticeship Week, the council, John Laing and Reds10 announced the new CCurv Step (Sustainable Training Employment Pathway) which will bring more and better opportunities for Croydon apprentices.

The programme will be delivered with help from Reds10, an award-winning social enterprise that works with leading contractors and developers.

Changes in the construction industry have made traditional full-term apprenticeships difficult to achieve because of the involvement of many more sub-contractors and shortened programmes.

This innovative agreement between CCurv and Reds10 will broker apprenticeships across multiple projects and contractors, adding up to a full apprenticeship, delivering a high standard of modern construction skills.



David Noakes and Dorian Scott Francis are two of the Croydon youngsters who have been helped into work by the apprenticeship scheme, and have been employed on the Bernard Weatherill House site.

David (left), from central Croydon, is a fixer’s mate at Focchi Ltd, the company that designed, manufactured and installed the project’s curtain walling – the outer covering of a building in which the outer walls are non-structural.

Dorian (right), from Upper Norwood, is working for MPG, subcontracted to provide internal fit-out and external construction solutions for the development project.

