

Devolution

At the time of writing this report there is no further news to report on the Devolution issue. You may have read in the local Press that Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight have signed up to a combined authority “Solent” deal, which includes having an elected Mayor. The authority and responsibility of that elected Mayor would be very different from the mayoral system as we know it at Winchester. An elected Mayor would have overall and direct responsibility for the new combined authority and would receive a substantial salary. Hampshire County Council has always rejected this model, believing it would add another layer of bureaucracy to local government and decision making and are awaiting the outcome of the Mori consultation which they commissioned with residents earlier this year.

A STEP Forward

Young people who are not in education, employment or training, and are not sure what to do next, can now access tailored support to help them find their way forward through a new service called STEP – Solent Traineeships, Engagement and Participation. STEP includes a new offer of 'Enhanced Traineeships' providing young people with valuable work experience placements and support with maths and English, as a stepping stone into full apprenticeships. Anyone who progresses to a traineeship will receive dedicated 1-to-1 support throughout their placement and may receive a bursary depending on personal circumstances.

The programme is available from now until the end of March 2018. It is funded by the European Social Fund, through the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It will be delivered by a partnership including local councils and the Wheatsheaf Trust, led by Hampshire County Council.

To be eligible for the scheme, young people must be aged 15 to 24 years, legally resident and able to work in the UK or EU, and not in education, employment or training. To take part in STEP, or to find out more information, please email hampshire.futures@hants.gov.uk or call 01962 846193 or visit the web site at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/yourfuture/youthsupport-careers/youth-careers-help-guide.htm>

Cold Weather

The county-wide fuel poverty project *Hitting the Cold Spots* offers advice and support to people who are having trouble staying warm during the winter, including home visits and grants for improvements to heating systems, emergency heaters and funding for repairs. Support available for those eligible includes:

- Provision of electric oil filled radiators for those without heating
- Access to funding for boiler repairs and replacements
- Access to funding for first time central heating
- Visits from Advisors offering advice and practical support
- Small grant support to help cope with winter emergencies

If you know of families, older people or vulnerable adults for whom staying warm at home is a struggle, please call: **0800 804 8601** or visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots>

Cost of Obesity

Did you know that almost 7 in 10 of Hampshire adults are overweight or obese and the cost to the NHS in Hampshire in managing diseases related to obesity is estimated at almost £340 million per year! That is why, in my HCC role as Cabinet Member for Health and Public Health I have commissioned a new self-referral service with Weight Watchers for people aged 18 years and over. If you are a resident in the administrative county of Hampshire, or are registered with a Hampshire GP and have a Body Mass Index [BMI] of 30+, or don't know what your BMI is but think you might qualify for this free service, call 0345 602 7068. People who qualify will be offered a free tailored service and will aim to lose not less than 5% of their body weight.

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