

Community Well-Being Benefits

7th edition

NEWSLETTER OCT - DEC 2025



**BUYING
RESPONSIBLY**

Welcome to the Community Wellbeing Benefits Newsletter for Quarter 3 of the Financial Year 2025/2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Ardal newsletter, highlighting the vital work our stakeholders are undertaking to deliver community wellbeing benefits across Wales.

In this issue, you'll find articles covering the Procurex Wales event, the inaugural Ardal Roundtable discussion, and updates from a range of case studies that showcase the positive impact contractors are making through their commitment to delivering community wellbeing outcomes.

Since joining Ardal a few months ago, it has been inspiring to see so many great initiatives making a real difference in the communities we serve. This newsletter provides a valuable platform to celebrate those successes, share positive stories, and encourage others to make the most of the support available to build on this important work.

I hope you find this edition informative and engaging.



Together we can continue working to create lasting, positive change through the work that we do.

Simon Robison - Strategy & Development Manager

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Procurex

Brilliant panel discussion at Procurex Wales with:

Gemma Ellis, Head of Procurement, Cardiff Council

Liz Lucas MSc, FCIPS Chartered Director of Transformation, Digital and Procurement, Caerphilly County Borough Council

Scott Parfitt BA (Hons) MSc. FHEA, MCIPS, Senior Lecturer, University of South Wales

Rhian Rogers, Capacity & Capability Lead, Welsh Government

Dr. E. Katharina Sarter Assistant Professor, Warwick Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick

The panel explored the importance of adaptable skills in today's procurement landscape. In a time where organisations are navigating two procurement regimes alongside new legislation and policies, staying flexible and responsive is key.

The discussion also highlighted the value of building strong relationships with stakeholders through effective face-to-face communication, understanding your supply chain, and ensuring lessons learned are shared both within organisations and across the wider procurement network in Wales.

Procurement is about more than compliance - it's about collaboration, learning, and driving innovation across the sector.



ARDAL AT PROCUREX

Procurex Wales 2025 is the premier annual one-day event in Cardiff, supported by the **Welsh Government**, connecting public sector buyers with private sector suppliers. It fosters collaboration, innovation, and networking to manage over £10.7 billion in annual public sector spend, focusing on sustainability, AI in procurement, and social value.



It's a busy day at Procurex Wales! Taking place at the Utilita Arena, Cardiff, today's event brings together the people, ideas and innovations driving progress across Wales' £10.7bn+ public sector.

We're proud to be part of the conversation about building a more sustainable, skilled and forward-thinking public procurement landscape.



Our highways team at Procurex

Our Community Wellbeing Benefits team at Procurex. Our CWB team support contractors to deliver **#socialvalue** within Ardal Procurement contracts across 4 Local Authorities.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING BENEFITS (CWB) TEAM

Llamau

Llamau is a prominent Welsh charity dedicated to ending homelessness for young people, women, and their families.

It was an absolute privilege to be invited to Llamau annual impact event in November in the Senedd. Some inspiring stories from the service users and meaningful impact within the community.

Some of our Ardal Procurement contractors have already worked with Llamau and we will be looking to run a report over the coming months to understand the impact and to promote the Llamau initiatives going forward, Watch this space.



[#socialvalue](#)

[#communitywellbeingbenefits](#)



CWB TEAM

The CWB team and Rhys James from Monmouthshire's procurement team.

The CWB team were delighted to attend a CIPS event around Embedding Social Value in Procurement & the Supply Chain

It was great to attend an in person event with like minded people who have a shared interest in legacy impact from Social Value.



ARDAL ROUNDTABLE: CONNECTING LOCAL SME'S TO COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

In December the Ardal team hosted a roundtable discussion bringing together local SMEs and Council Buyers to explore how we can better connect small businesses with Below Threshold contract opportunities.

The event provided a valuable forum for open dialogue, with suppliers sharing the challenges they face - from building relationships and navigating tender processes to managing costs and communications.

We're taking action on the feedback:

- More Meet the Buyer events to build solid connections
- Simplified tender documents and guidance for SMEs

- Improved communication through LinkedIn, newsletters, and forward planning of opportunities
- Highlighting SME success stories to change perceptions of working with the Council

By working together, we aim to make Council procurement more accessible, transparent, and beneficial for local businesses.

Hear more from Gemma Ellis,
Head of Commissioning and Procurement at Ardal.

Gemma Ellis
Head of
Commissioning
and
Procurement at
Ardal



LOVELLS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Lovell Donates to Ysgol Y Deri's Summer Ball



Lovell has donated a £50 Boots voucher to the Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) of Ysgol Y Deri, a registered charity supporting Ysgol Y Deri Special School in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan.

Ysgol Y Deri is the UK's largest special needs school and has been widely recognised for its exceptional work, including through the BBC One Wales documentary series 'A Special School'. Since 2008, the PTA charity has played a vital role in enhancing the lives of pupils by providing additional resources, opportunities, and experiences tailored to the diverse needs of the school community.

The donated voucher will be used as a raffle or prize item at the school's Summer Ball, taking place on 14th June 2025. The event is one of the PTA's key fundraising efforts, helping to generate much-needed support for the children and families that rely on the school's services.



LOVELL

Eastern High Community Campus Engagement

On 7 November 2025, the Lovell team attended Eastern High Community Campus. The Lovell team consisted of Vina Patel, Social Value Manager; Jasmin Grainger, Management Trainee; and Stephen Lane, Regional Training Manager. In total, the team spent five hours at the event.

During the visit, the team engaged with 20 students, delivering an interactive session focused on careers within the construction industry. This included providing information on the wide range of roles available, career pathways, training routes, and progression opportunities within Lovell and the wider sector.

Later in the day, the team conducted mock interviews with the students, offering practical experience and personalised feedback. This activity helped to improve students' employability skills, including interview techniques, communication, and confidence.



Feedback from Emma Meyrick, Head of Geography at Eastern High Community Campus:

"I just wanted to send a heartfelt thank you for your incredible support today. We truly appreciate you giving up your time. The effort you put into your setup and resources was outstanding and really helped engage all of our learners. Seeing pupils come out of their interviews with such big smiles on their faces was a joy. Your calm, reassuring approach and the positive, constructive feedback you gave made a real impact."

LOVELL



CARDIFF ARENA: BUILDING A VENUE AND A BETTER COMMUNITY

Cardiff Arena & Hotel



Since commencing on site, McLaren have undertaken a number of activities with the local community and universities, as outlined below:

On 21st October the site hosted 2 groups of Civil Engineering students from Cardiff University.

In December, McLaren hosted a group of young people from EYST on site and have referred those that are interested to OCA to undertake their CSCS training.



In January, we have an individual undertaking a week's work placement with our Health & Safety Manager following her studies in Health, Safety and Environmental Management and another commencing a placement 2 days a week to tie in with her QS studies at Cardiff University. We wish them both well.

Since the project commenced we have had 40 workers on site from the CF10 & 11 postcodes, representing 8.6% of the total. Currently, we have 9 workers on site from Grangetown or Butetown.

MCLAREN
Exceptional People, Exceptional Places


ROBERTSON


**CARDIFF
CAERDYDD**

NEW WILLOWS BUILD GOOD NEWS STORIES MORGAN SINDALL

Christmas at Willows 2025

In collaboration with our Supply Chain Partners, December was a busy but incredibly rewarding month, with our teams going above and beyond to donate, volunteer, deliver gifts and even dress up as Santa to ensure that local children in the Splott, Adamsdown and Tremorfa areas of the city had a Christmas experience.

Our Christmas gift appeal on site was a huge success with charities and organisations benefitting from these donations.



Enhancing the area where we work

Our teams volunteered their time by planting over 1800 trees at Fishpond Woods, in collaboration with Coed Caerdydd and their 10 year mission to make Cardiff a greener and healthier place to live.

It was a fantastic morning for team bonding, increasing health and wellbeing levels, a combined total of 50,000 steps, lots of mud, giggles and more importantly, fueled by doughnuts and Christmas songs.



The Garage Studio at Eastmoors

In collaboration with Volunteer it Yourself (VIY), Supply Chain Partners and local young people, we have recently completed renovation works in The Garage Studio at Eastmoors Youth Centre.

Following a significant monetary investment from Morgan Sindall Construction as part of our social value commitments linked to the New Willows School build, the studio has been transformed into a modern space to create a professional, creative area for young people to explore music and media. The transformation has strengthened community cohesion and inspired pride among young people and residents.



During the project, 21 young people took part, referred by Willows High School and Cardiff Youth Services, of which 84% were at risk of becoming NEET. Out of the 21, 17 gained at least one accreditation including:

- **Conduct at Work**
- **Painting & Decorating**
- **Carpentry**

Elliot Perkins, a local young person, joined the project after becoming disengaged with education. He really stood out to us with his dedication and willingness to learn and, as a result, VIY have supported him in gaining his CSCS qualification with an end goal of him working on the New Willows build with Morgan Sindall and carpentry subcontractors, Ian Williams Carpentry.

This project was a huge success not only with creating a new space but the positive impact it has had on the young people involved.



WSP AND KNOX & WELLS

Flat Holm Island

David Lane said 'Restoring a building on a small island isn't just construction, it's a logistical puzzle.'

Every material, tool, and skilled hand has to cross water, often battling unpredictable weather and limited transport options. Add in strict environmental considerations and the challenge of preserving heritage, and you've got a project that demands patience, precision, and resilience.

It's not just about rebuilding, it's about respecting history while overcoming isolation.

I was lucky enough to work on a project like this located on Flat Holm Island with KNOX & WELLS LIMITED and WSP in the UK & Ireland for Cardiff Council.



Richard Wilks from WSP said

'Fantastic to visit Flat Holm once again to review the works ready for handover. Great job by KNOX & WELLS LIMITED together with all round team from WSP in the UK & Ireland CMS Group and the client & island team to overcome the specific logistical issues associated with this project.'

Also some dramatic weather / skies during the visit!

KNOX & WELLS LTD WSP
BUILDING CONTRACTORS • ESTABLISHED 1888



Tree Planting at Ely Wells, Cardiff

In December 2025, we celebrated our third consecutive year of volunteering with Coed Caerdydd, marking our most successful tree-planting season yet. Together with colleagues from Wates, our supply chain partners, and Cardiff Council, we planted an impressive 2,550 trees at Ely Wells. This brings our three-year total to 5,750 trees planted across three locations in Cardiff - made possible by the commitment of over 60 volunteers.

Our ongoing partnership with Coed Caerdydd reflects our long-term commitment to enhancing Cardiff's natural environment as the city grows. As we continue to build much-needed homes, it is vital that we also invest in green infrastructure that supports the health, resilience, and sustainability of the communities we serve.

Planting trees is one of the most effective ways to support both people and the planet. For Cardiff in particular - an expanding city balancing development with environmental responsibility - tree planting plays a crucial role in:

1. Supporting cleaner, healthier air
2. Reducing urban heat and improving climate resilience
3. Enhancing bio diversity
4. Managing flood risk
5. Supporting the wellbeing of local communities
6. Leaving a lasting legacy

We look forward to continuing to support Coed Caerdydd over the coming years and hopefully reaching 10,000 trees planted by 2030



Wates

CMB - FAIRWATER COMMUNITY CAMPUS

We partnered with Youth Safety First CIC and Cantonian High School to welcome a fantastic group of girls into the world of construction. After an introduction to Health & Safety and a site tour, we hosted an inspiring panel of women from across the industry. They shared their journeys, qualifications, and experiences working in a predominantly male sector, showing the next generation what's possible.

SEER CONSTRUCTION LIMITED gave a hands-on demo, showing the girls two different ways to pave. A huge thank you to @Damien Daniels for making this possible!

It was a brilliant day full of curiosity, confidence, and future engineers, project managers, landscapers, H&S professionals, Quantity Surveyors and more.

Empowering today's young women to become tomorrow's leaders in construction!

On Monday 1st December, BESL/CMB Engineering welcomed partners, stakeholders, teachers, pupils, and special guests to the main entrance, atrium and hall of the Fairwater Community Campus construction site to celebrate a significant moment in the journey of this ambitious project.

As Principal Contractor on this multi-million pound development, we were proud to host this milestone event, marking both the progress made on site and the legacy we hope to build for the young people and community of Fairwater and the surrounding areas. Despite the weather being cold, the atmosphere was warm and full of anticipation, bringing together Cardiff Council cabinet members, local Councillors, Welsh Government, the project supply chain, as well as schoolteachers, governors and students from Cantonian High School, Riverbank School, Woodlands School and the three cluster primary schools:

Pentrebane, Peter Lea and Fairwater Primary.



December was a busy month for donations! BESL donated selection boxes to Fairwater Rugby Club and Llamau. Foodbank donations to Llanrumney Hall and Emmanuel Church. BESL also donated toiletries to Tyndall Court Hostel in collaboration with Into Work Services and Wates.



Keep up to date with what we're doing here:

www.fairwaterbesl.co.uk

NELSON HOUSE MURAL - HALEGROUP

This mural was created by the residents of Nelson House, many of whom will become future residents of the Bute Street development.

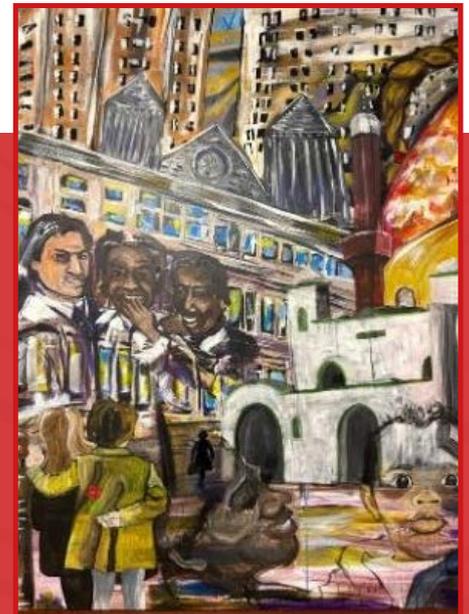
Tanio commissioned two artists to deliver the project, one of whom is a local resident of Butetown.

Residents were invited to share personal stories and photographs, which directly informed the design and content of the mural. The artwork features one or two current residents, alongside several notable individuals who previously lived in the building and have since passed away.

In addition, the wider community was encouraged to participate through two engagement days held at Butetown Pavilion, providing further opportunities to share stories and contribute directly to the painting process.

The mural was completed at Nelson House with the active involvement of residents and will be installed in the lobby of the new building upon completion of the development.

Funding for the project was provided through the scheme's Community Investment Allowance, and the mural was delivered by Tanio Cymru.



LOVELLS - ST MELLONS PROJECT

Creating Meaningful Change Through Local Support and Giving

Background

The South Wales and West team hosted its 30th annual charity golf day in Cardiff, raising a total of £14,550. The funds were split equally between three local charities: Llamau, Maggie's, and Young Lives vs Cancer Cymru.

Our activity

The event was a great success, generating £14,550 for the chosen charities. In addition, Lovell contractors donated eight four-ball golf vouchers to Maggie's, valued at £1,640, and one contractor donated a four-ball golf voucher to Young Lives vs Cancer Cymru, worth £200. These additional contributions helped further support the charities and made the event even more impactful.

Our impact

This support created essential funding that enabled local charities to continue improving the lives of vulnerable communities through the delivery of vital services and support programmes.

Llamau
Maggie's
Young Lives vs Cancer Cymru

Total contribution- £16,390
Lovell Staff Hours - 60



LOVELL

COASTAL DEFENCE - KNIGHTS BROWN

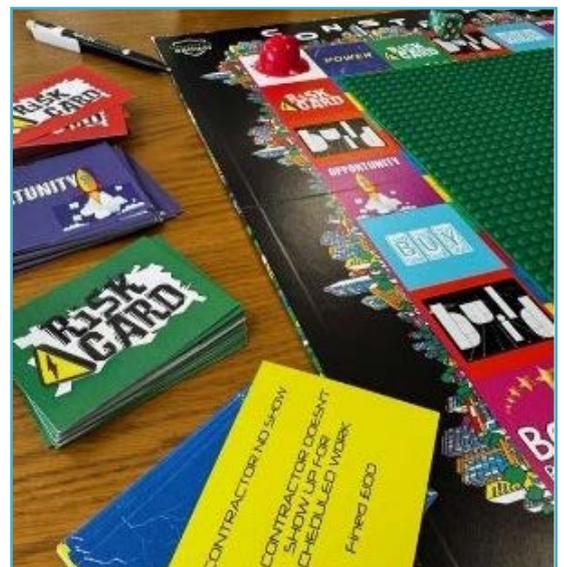
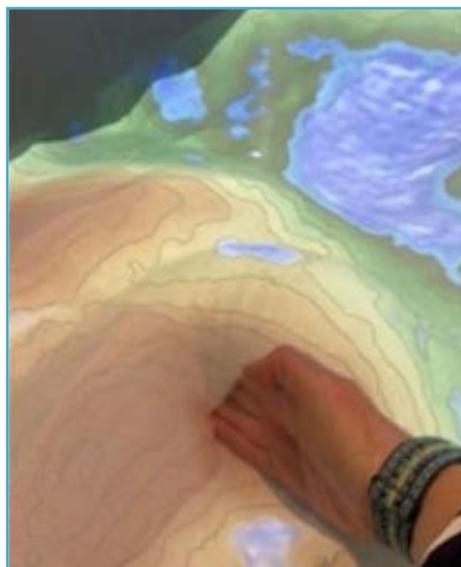
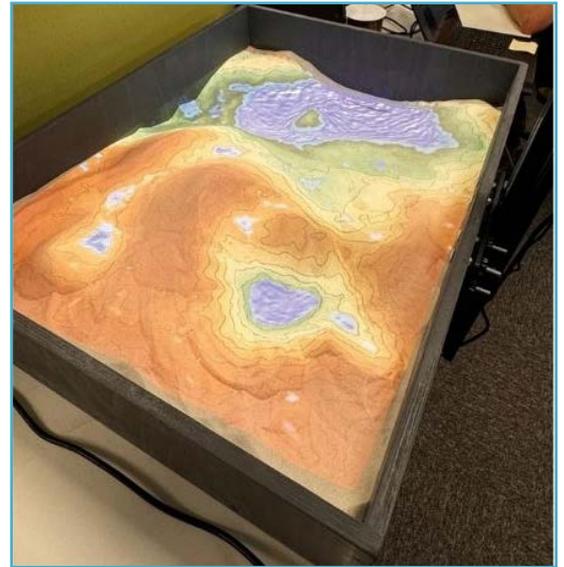
Knights Brown Brings Civil Engineering to Life with Exciting New STEM Initiatives

It's an exciting time at Knights Brown as the team gears up to launch 'Constropolis', a brand-new board game designed to bring the world of civil engineering off the page and straight onto the table. Developed in-house, the game challenges players to take on a construction project while discovering the many different roles that make the construction industry tick.

Ahead of its official launch, Knights Brown is inviting Year 7 and Year 8 students to be among the first to try 'Constropolis' in a trial run. Schools interested in giving their students a fun, hands-on insight into engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving are encouraged to get in touch with us at: talktous@knightsbrown.co.uk

And that's not all. The coming months mark a big step forward for Knights Brown's STEM outreach, with the creation of an impressive Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox. This interactive learning tool blends a physical sandbox with cutting-edge computer simulation, projecting live topographic maps, contour lines, and flowing water directly onto the sand. The result is a captivating, hands-on experience that shows engineering principles in action. With Knights Brown currently delivering a coastal defence project in Cardiff, the AR Sandbox offers a powerful way to demonstrate how coastal protection works and the vital role engineering plays in protecting towns and communities from the effects of erosion and flooding.

From game-based learning to immersive technology, Knights Brown is committed to inspiring the next generation of engineers by making STEM exciting, accessible, and unforgettable.



SPRINGWOOD PRIMARY - GRAHAMS

Springwood Primary School Engagement - November 2025

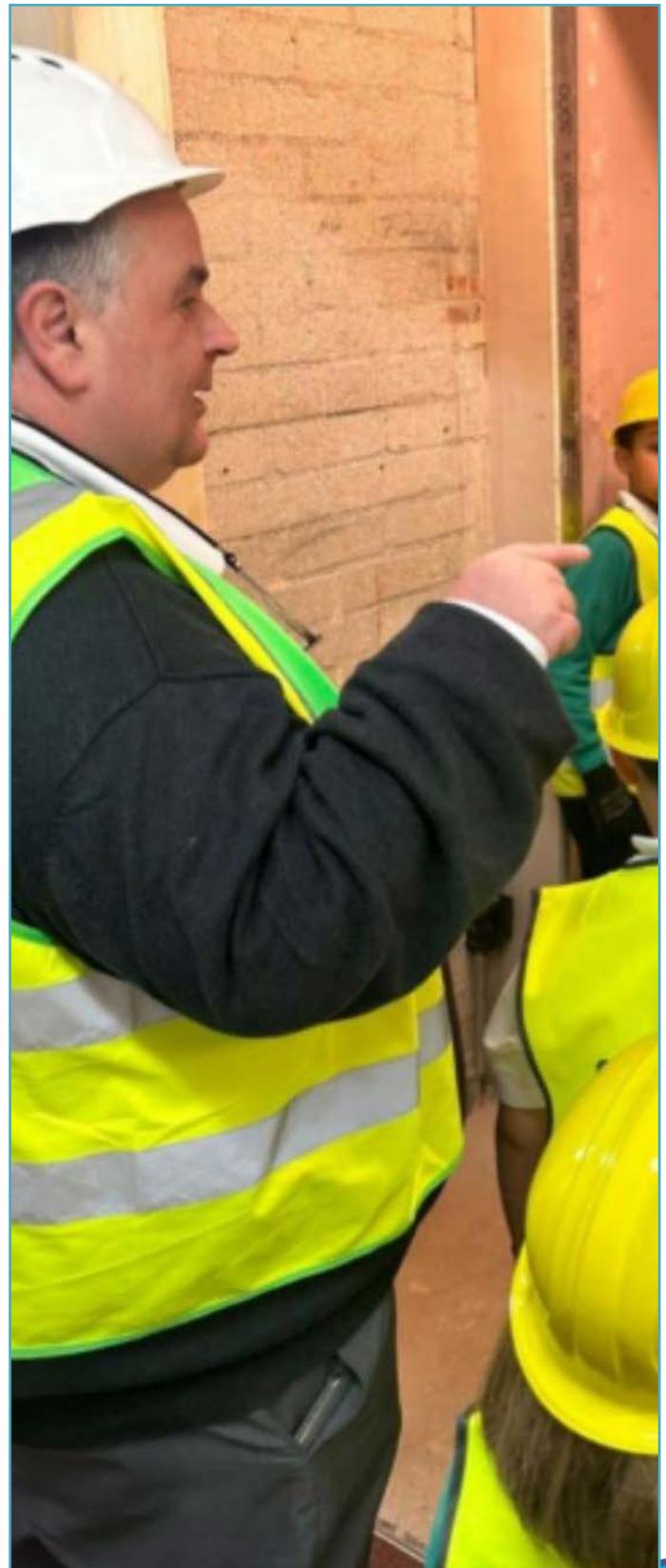
As our modification works project at Springwood Primary School came to an end, Contracts Manager Phil Briley and Project Manager Neil McPherson took the opportunity to create a learning experience for the children around the works completed to date, and to say they were excited would be an understatement!

They started off with a small presentation highlighting the hazards of construction sites, followed by a quick Q&A where they were bombarded with all sorts of fun questions!

The children were then split into two groups and dressed in hats, gloves and Hi Viz, ready for our construction site (with the questions still coming throughout the walk around).

They completed this activity with two year groups; and it was so popular that the second tour had additional children who had snuck out of their classes to join in on the fun (their teachers did round them up in the end).

All children had smiles on their faces, which was lovely to see. Great Fun was had by all, the Children and Teachers alike!



ONSITE CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY (OCA)



ACADEMI ADEILADU AR Y SAFLE DE-DDWYRAIN CYMRU ONSITE CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY SOUTH EAST WALES

The Onsite Construction Academy South East Wales (OCA) is a training, experience and employment programme for careers in the construction industry. Funded by CITB and delivered by the Into Work Advice Service, the OCA supports contractors and job seekers (new entrants, returners and career changers) of all ages across the Cardiff Capital Region, preparing job seekers for work in the sector through onsite experiences and funded training.

Our candidates represent some of the most disadvantaged and unrepresented demographics including the unemployed, economically inactive, long term unemployed, young people not in education/employment/training, care experienced young people, over 50s, ex-offenders, BME ethnicities and females.

We are experienced in working with tier 1 companies, contractors, supply chains and recruitment agencies, supplying reliable and committed candidates to support the achievement of Community Wellbeing Benefits targets around employment and skills and we are always seeking work experience and employment opportunities for our candidates.



If you would like to be included on our CSCS candidate mailing list and/or would like to get involved with our training programme, contact us at ConstructionAcademy@cardiff.gov.uk.

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN BUTETOWN

Building Opportunities in Butetown – A Successful Construction Event

On Wednesday, 17th December, the Butetown Youth Pavilion hosted an inspiring event led by Cardiff Council's Onsite Construction Academy. The session showcased the wealth of job opportunities coming to Butetown in 2026 and beyond, thanks to major developments like the new Arena, hotels, and improved transport links.

Local residents had the chance to meet leading contractors and agencies, including McLaren, Graham/Cross Rail, BMSL (representing Goldbeck), Blue Water, and Sphere Solutions. Presentations highlighted upcoming projects and how community members can get involved.

The event attracted 30 attendees from varied backgrounds - some with onsite experience and many eager to enter the construction sector for the first time. Flyers were hand-delivered across Butetown, including shops, hubs, and the pavilion, sparking conversations with local residents. Online promotion through Facebook and Eventbrite saw 12 sign-ups and 1,052 QR code views.

Joe from the Onsite Academy shared details about CSCS and Health & Safety courses to help individuals become site-ready. Community voices were strong, with questions ensuring opportunities remain accessible to local people. Sara, Community Engagement Officer, reinforced this commitment, while contractors spoke about their social value goals to employ local talent.

Delicious food from Ayeeyo's added a warm touch to an afternoon of networking and empowerment. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event.

What's Next?

This event marks the launch of the Butetown Construction Hub, opening on 14th January 2026 at Butetown Hub. Stay tuned for more opportunities to build your future!



If you need support with the above get in touch with clare.humphreys@cardiff.gov.uk

CARDIFF COMMITMENT

The Cardiff Commitment is a city-wide initiative that brings together schools, employers, and community partners to inspire and support children and young people in Cardiff. Our mission is to ensure every young person can access meaningful opportunities that prepare them for the world of work

Core Programme 2025/26 PLEDGE NOW!

We're inviting all partners to pledge their support for our Core Programme for the 2025/26 academic year. The pledge window is still open, and your commitment helps us deliver meaningful, consistent opportunities for young people across Cardiff.

What Your Pledge Supports:

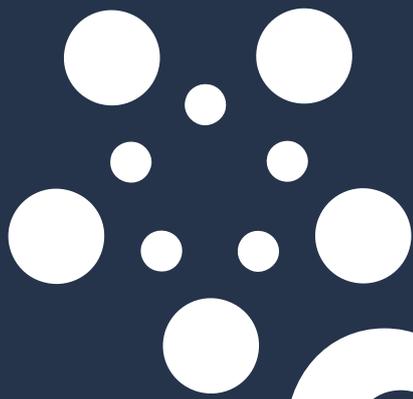
Our Core Programme includes a wide range of impactful projects, such as: Open Your Eyes Week – virtual workshops for primary pupils to explore the world of work. What's Next Award Work Experience – tailored placements for Year 12 and alternative provision learners. Supported Internships – bespoke work experience for ALN and care-experienced pupils. Shape My Street / Shape My School – turning pupil ideas into built realities through design and construction. Industry Connects & Business Forums – employer-led engagement and collaboration with secondary schools. One Million Mentors & Debate Mate – mentoring and communication programmes to raise aspirations. What's Next Cardiff Platform – promoting post-16 EET opportunities. Youth Support Service Events & Talent Pipeline Projects – targeted outreach to address sector needs.
Complete our online pledge form [HERE](#)

Let's Build a Brighter Future - Together

Contact: Darren Phillips, Principal Business Development Officer
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