

Wrexham projects making a difference to communities

The Minister's first stop was at the Coedpoeth Youth and Play Project which has benefited from the Welsh Government's All Wales Play Opportunities Grant to adopt a joined up approach to the delivery of play work and youth work provision in the local community.

One of the aims of the project is to facilitate more interactions between different ages of children. The project began simply with a small, donated shipping container for resources, but now a more substantial and insulated space is being provided for children and young people with more shelter and one they can call their own. This will also help to raise the profile of the project in the local area. More than 140 young people attended the project between April 2017 and April 2018.

The Minister then visited the 'Take Five' group in Caia Park which is weekly drop in session to support the perinatal mental health of mothers from the antenatal period up to the child being one year of age. Within the group, the mothers have the opportunity to try new activities and experiences aimed at wellbeing. The group runs twice a week, with 90 per cent of families attending benefiting from the Welsh Government's Flying Start scheme.

Following his visits, Huw Irranca-Davies said:

"I was really pleased to visit the Coedpoeth Youth and Play Project and the 'Take Five' group which are playing a vital part in improving people's lives in the Wrexham area.

"In Coedpoeth, children and young people are being brought together to participate in a range of valuable opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time which will help develop their mental and physical wellbeing.

"The Take Five group in Caia Park is proving essential in meeting the needs of perinatal mothers with early indicators or who are at risk of developing a post-natal mental health issue.

"These programmes are helping strengthen people's feelings of happiness, enjoyment and engagement which in turn build positive life experiences. Today's visits really show the tangible difference Welsh Government funding is making."

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£46,000 to promote Health and Safety in the agricultural and forestry sector

The funding will be used to support the Partnership's campaign 'Working together to make farming safer'.

The Cabinet Secretary made the announcement as she met Farming Connect's four newly appointed Health and Safety Mentors at the Royal Welsh Show. The mentors will help individuals and businesses identify risks, eliminate hazards and reduce the risk of accidents within the business.

The Farming Connect mentoring programme has been running for two years and over 100 farmers and foresters have already used the service, totalling over 750 hours of peer to peer support.

A tragic 144 fatal injuries to British workers in 2017/2018, with agriculture accounting for 29% of the fatalities. Thousands more have suffered serious injuries and work related ill health.

Cabinet Secretary said:

"Health and safety on farm is of paramount importance. The Wales Farm Safety Partnership plays a key role in helping to drive down the unacceptable number of serious accidents and deaths that occur on the farms across Wales each year.

"I am therefore pleased to be able to announce £46,000 for the Partnership to promote the importance of health and safety through their 'Working together to make farming safer'.

"Farm safety is a lifestyle, not a slogan. We must not lose sight of the fact, as with any industry or business sector, workplace health and safety and any measures and costs associated with making the farm safe is an issue for and the responsibility of individual farm businesses.

"It has never been more important than it is right now for farmers in Wales to look at what is on offer from Farming Connect.

"The Farming Connect mentoring programme has a track record of providing valuable support helping individuals and businesses identify risks, eliminate hazards and reduce the risk of accidents with the business. I was delighted to meet the four new health and safety mentors at the Show today and hear first hand of their determination to spread the message about the importance of health and safety on farms."

Construction consultancy chooses Cardiff for its new site

Scitech Engineering provides design, engineering, construction and validation services for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. It was established in 2002 and now boasts a turnover of £18m and a staff of over 130 employees.

The company has recently enjoyed another period of growth and after a growing client list along the M4 and M5 corridor and within South Wales, and following discussions with the Welsh Government, the company decided to locate its new office at Cardiff Gate.

Scitech's move to Wales was secured partly as a result of the Welsh Government's offer of continued financial support over three years which will help to secure an additional 20 skilled and well paid jobs over 3 years.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates said:

"I am delighted that following an offer of Welsh Government support, Scitech has chosen Cardiff as the location for its new office, bringing with it 20 highly skilled and well paid jobs.

As set out in my Economic Action Plan, these are exactly the types of jobs we are keen to attract to Wales in order to future proof our economy and build the strong foundations that we need to ensure inclusive economic growth."

Dave Grant, Managing Director at Scitech said:

"Welsh Government financial initiatives and support have been a key driver for Scitech to locate in the region. When assessed against other locations, the interest and confidence shown in Scitech by the Welsh Government team provided the motivation to commit to a Wales-based site for our expansion."

David Jackson, Chairman & Director at Scitech said:

"We are excited by the opportunities that our new office in Cardiff is already bringing. We are grateful to Welsh Government and to Cardiff Council's Economic Development Team who have been invaluable in our evaluation of Wales and in particular selecting Cardiff for locating our latest office in Scitech's continued

expansion. The support of both partners continues today to ensure our investment is successful and we look forward to a thriving future in Wales.”

Scitech is a global company, with offices in Belgium and the Netherlands and a portfolio of prestigious clients, notably in the region: BBI, BTG, Cardiff University, Convatec, GE Healthcare, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and PCI Pharma Services – a Scitech project in Tredegar that was the ISPE international award winner for Facility Integration in 2014.

Since 2012 it has been owned as an Employee Benefit Trust: a Board of Trustees manage the company on behalf of all staff for the long term benefit of all employees, ensuring Scitech remains independent and focused on delivering Perfect Outcomes for its clients.

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