

RAISING dragons

THIS MONTH: ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING

The achieve economic wellbeing outcome covers areas such as signposting financial support for parents and reducing the cost of school trips. Preparing children for work is also a key target, and something you might think is best left to secondary schools. But **Amy Parkes**, a trainee lawyer and volunteer at Webster Primary school, Manchester, explains the benefits of equipping primary school children with the skills needed in an uncertain economic future

Volunteering at Webster Primary School in Moss Side was one of the most challenging but exciting things I've done for a very long time. I was part of a team of trainee solicitors who descended on the school to work alongside teachers to deliver the Young Enterprise Primary Programme. Our challenge: to throw open a window on the world of work to 4-11 year olds.

The Primary Programme, like all Young Enterprise Programmes, is based on the principle of "learning by doing" and involves hands-on activities designed to open the minds of primary school children, encouraging them to think about the world around them.

I feel passionately that now, more than ever, it's crucial that we teach our children about what's going on around them and equip them with the understanding and skills to deal with this. Through volunteering at Webster Primary, I hope that we have helped these 200 children, from diverse social and economic backgrounds, by giving them a better understanding of the world and a desire for success. All of these things, I think, will help the children to cope with and understand today's difficult economic environment.

Enterprise education is vitally important – by opening the eyes of primary school children to the world around them, we won't just equip them for working life, but we'll give them a greater understanding of the world that they are part of. As they progress, primary school children can build on these ideas to widen their knowledge and think about business in a national and even global context. Hopefully, if these children start to develop their commercial awareness at a young age, they will grow up to be more aware of the wider social and business environment that they are part of, which may help us to avoid similar financial instability in the future.

I would like to think that we were able to offer the children at Webster Primary the confidence to know that they can succeed in the world. As living, breathing examples of success, volunteers from business that go into schools are inspirational, even to very young children. Last year 3,041 individuals from business helped to deliver the Young Enterprise Primary Programme, touching the lives of some 106,414 primary school children, giving them the motivation to have dreams and to follow them. In a time of economic uncertainty, nothing can be more

important than inspiring the younger generation with passion and confidence.

There are also considerable benefits of the Primary Programme for business advisers. In fact, the whole experience was profoundly rewarding for me and the other volunteers involved. I was amazed by how enthusiastic the children were and how eager they were to learn. It was rewarding to see how excited the children got about seeing people from business, wanting to know what we did and why we did it. I really hope we inspired them to think beyond their local community, to the wider world and all the possibilities they have as young people. After all, the success of our economic future is down to our young people. **EE**

Young enterprise business adviser, Amy, is a trainee solicitor with law firm, Halliwells in Manchester. She volunteered in a school in Moss Side, working alongside the class teacher to deliver the Young Enterprise Primary Programme.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS



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ECONOMIC WELLBEING

OUTCOMES	Children & young people engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school	Children & young people are ready for employment	Children & young people live in decent homes and sustainable communities	Children & young people have access to transport and material goods	Children & young people live in households free from low income
TARGETS	% 16-18 year-olds not in education, employment and training	%18-30 year olds participating in higher education	Cleaner, safer & greener public spaces, and quality of the built environment in deprived areas	Level of material & low income	% children living in relative low income households including % living in workless households
JUDGEMENTS	Action is taken by partners to support families in maximising their economic well being	Young people 11-19 are helped to prepare for working life	Action is taken to ensure that young people have decent housing	Community regeneration initiatives address the needs of children & young people	Information and support is provided on benefit entitlement
EVIDENCE	Partners are aware of minimising the financial stress of families of childhood activity such as school trips and transport	Young people are supported in developing self confidence, team working skills and enterprise	Support is available for families and young people seeking to transfer within or enter social housing	Residents, including children and young people are involved in planning managing and reviewing community regeneration initiatives	Information and support is provided on benefit entitlement

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