



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOUR UK CHARITIES TO HELP 25,000 DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE INTO EDUCATION, TRAINING OR WORK, WITH SUPPORT FROM HSBC

#### Catch22, St Giles Trust, The Prince's Trust and Tomorrow's People to expand employment skills programmes and collaborate through 'Opportunity Partnership'

- 25,000 of the UK's most vulnerable young people to be supported by the end of 2015
- HSBC is supporting four UK charities with a proven track record in the youth sector to rapidly expand their existing, tried and tested programmes
- Youth employment schemes to offer greater coverage across the UK
- £30 million donated by HSBC to support the partnership over the next three years

Four leading UK youth charities are collaborating to expand their employment skills programmes to get a further 25,000 of the UK's most vulnerable young people into education, training or work. The work of the charities: Catch22, St Giles Trust, The Prince's Trust and Tomorrow's People will be boosted by a £30 million donation over three years from HSBC.

The Opportunity Partnership is targeted at 16 to 25 year olds who are not in work, education or training, and who also face additional barriers such as homelessness, poverty or mental health problems. By working together, the charities will be able to expand their schemes where there is greatest need and secure the best opportunities for the young people they support.

Over the next three years, the Opportunity Partnership will also create 100 roles for young people to act as 'Job Ambassadors'. These are young people who have turned their lives around with help from The Prince's Trust and now encourage other young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to take this step. As part of the Partnership, the 100 Job Ambassadors will direct young people to the most relevant programme from one of the four charity partners.

As well as financial support, HSBC will offer those helped by the Opportunity Partnership an interview to join the HSBC Apprenticeship programme. This programme was launched in 2011, the first of its kind run by a major bank in the UK. On 21 May 2013, HSBC announced that it would double the number of apprentices to 2,000 with an intake of 700 a year. By the end of July 2013, 1,500 people will have started an Apprenticeship programme with HSBC since the scheme launched.

HSBC's employees will also lend their support with 3,000 skills-based volunteering places in mentoring, coaching and delivering workshops to young people to help them gain confidence and an insight into work.

In 2012, HSBC donated £5 million to The Prince's Trust Fairbridge programme which is available to 13 to 17 year olds who are unemployed or struggling with education. In the first year, they have helped 441 young people of whom 75 per cent progressed into employment, training or

volunteering. HSBC also funded nine Outreach and Development Workers who are responsible for recruiting, inducting and working directly with young people. They have recruited an additional 509 young people onto the programme.

The four charities' employment skills programmes have already supported 7,702 young people into education, training or work over the past three years.

*Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister:*

“The Opportunity Partnership is real support from HSBC that will allow these fantastic charities to expand their employability programmes and benefit more young people, their families and communities.”

*Chris Wright, Chief Executive, Catch22:*

“With HSBC’s support Catch22 will be well-placed to target small and medium-sized enterprises – helping to remove some of the barriers they face in taking on young people and offering apprenticeships. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with more employers who are committed to creating work preparation support, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. HSBC’s commitment to this programme will allow Catch22 to turn around even more lives – helping not only young people but also their peers, families and communities.”

*Rob Owen, Chief Executive, St Giles Trust:*

““HSBC’s support will help us make a real difference to the lives and futures of vastly more disadvantaged young people, particularly young offenders who face huge barriers in accessing employment and the opportunity for a second chance. We can now extend our very successful Choices programme to other areas of the UK, benefitting the young people, their families and most importantly their local communities.”

*Baroness Stedman-Scott, Chief Executive, Tomorrow’s People:*

“We really value HSBC’s long-term commitment to the issue of youth unemployment. There is so much demand for us to expand our work in local communities and HSBC’s investment means that we will be able to launch a number of new programmes with confidence and broaden and deepen the services in localities where we are already delivering successfully.”

*Martina Milburn, Chief Executive, The Prince’s Trust:*

“This new partnership with HSBC marks a real breakthrough in the fight against youth unemployment. With their support, we will now be able to expand our vocational training programme and help thousands of unemployed young people find work in industries like social care and hospitality where there are jobs available. This will have a lasting impact on young people, their families and communities across the UK.”

*Antonio Simoes, Head of HSBC Bank UK:*

“I am proud to be supporting this new Partnership. With the right support, we can help disadvantaged young people find fulfilling opportunities through education, training and work. HSBC has a long history of supporting the communities in which we operate. We want to help young people who feel that the job market is out of reach find direction for the future. They can act as a positive influence on their peers and families and contribute to the long-term economic development and prosperity of communities throughout the UK.

"We will also support our employees in lending their support to these initiatives through skills-based volunteering including CV writing workshops and interview skills."

### **About the employment skills programmes:**

Catch22's **'Route to Work'** supports young people aged 16 to 24 years old to gain experience, skills and qualifications to succeed in education, training or employment. The programme combines intensive interventions to build positive attitudes, confidence and motivation, with the opportunity to gain career specific skills and qualifications, work tasters and access to apprenticeships. With a focus on Hampshire, London, Essex, Nottingham, Kent, Northamptonshire and Surrey, experienced Catch22 staff work in collaboration with employers to match the young people to jobs in local businesses and support sustainable employment.

St Giles Trust **'Choices'** provides targeted intervention to heavily disadvantaged young people, including young offenders, in London, South Wales and West Yorkshire. Young people supported through Choices are not in employment, education and training. They also face complex barriers hindering their personal development, including an offending history, homelessness, family breakdown, leaving the care system, acting as young carers or becoming teenage parents.

The Prince's Trust **'Get Into'** is a two to six weeks long support developing work related skills, teamwork, reliability, hard work, communication, specific vocational skills, relevant vocational accreditation or qualifications. **'Job Ambassadors'** is a Prince's Trust initiative to employ young people to act as job ambassadors in their local areas, helping unemployed young people to access work and training opportunities.

Tomorrow's People **'Working It Out'** is an intensive, work-focused, community volunteering programme which helps young people to build confidence, motivation and employability skills so that they can get and keep a job. The **'Works! Programme'** supports disadvantaged young people in insulated, rural areas into employment. **'In-2 work'** provides employment focused advice and guidance for socially excluded young people who are ready to move into work.

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**The Opportunity Partnership** between Catch22, St Giles Trust, Tomorrow's People and The Prince's Trust supported by HSBC will help 25,000 disadvantaged 16 to 25 year olds in the UK over three years from 2013 into education, training or work.

HSBC is expanding its support and helping the most disadvantaged young people in the UK through the Bank's Community Investment Programme by investing £30 million over three years with four charities who specialise in the youth, education and employment sectors.

In the UK between 2012 and 2014, HSBC will donate £14 million each year to education programmes, reaching more than 41,000 young people through charities including LEAP, UK Youth, St Basils, Community Links and The Prince's Trust Fairbridge programme. This includes the new Opportunity Partnership investment.

Find out more at: [www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk)>About Us>[Sustainability](#)