

200 jobs for young people in our borough

AROUND 200 jobs for young people are coming to Barking and Dagenham through a new Government scheme.

Harmony House in Dagenham, which has already taken on more than 30 people with money from the £1 billion Future Jobs Fund, aims to create over half the new jobs, including cashiers, gardeners and home-helpers.

Non-profit educational organisation Link-Ed also got a share of the cash towards 60 local jobs including carbon emissions advisers and administration staff.

The jobs at Harmony House are mainly for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds. At first, they will be six-month contracts.

Twenty-three-year-old Sophie Gore has an English degree, but was out of work for a year before applying to Harmony House.

Support

She is now project coordinator for the newly created jobs, which will support parents of disabled children and help disabled families with DIY and housekeeping.

Sophie, from Dagenham, said: "When I graduated in 2008, the recession was on.

"I was hard to get a good job in management, which is what I

Susan Whitear

susan.whitear@bbd.gov.uk

want to do, without any experience. "Now I'm getting the experience of managing this project at Harmony House and it's given me confidence, which I lost a bit when I was unemployed."

James Eves is working as a painter and decorator with the project.

He's been offered an apprenticeship with a local DIY firm when his contract at Harmony House ends in June.

Helping

James, who is 20 and lives in Barking, said: "I'm really enjoying this work, as it feels like I'm helping people who are in need."

Marie Kearns, chief executive of Harmony House, said: "The jobs we've created are to help the community.

"We have more than 300 families benefiting from our new workers.

"Hopefully, these roles will help young people secure a job once their contract has finished.

"We also help them put together CVs and references.

"Once the current contracts end in June we have another 80 jobs to fill."



HANDYMAN: James Eves has been offered an apprenticeship with a local DIY company.



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY: Sophie Gore is now the project coordinator of the new jobs.

