

## **South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat supports Future Jobs Fund**

South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat (SYJS) is backing a government initiative helping to get long term unemployed people in the region back to work.

Future Jobs Fund offers a 50 week employment placement to people who have been out of work for more than a year, aiming to create 170,000 additional jobs throughout the UK.

The SYJS is now showing its support to Future Jobs Fund by offering work placements and one person to benefit from the scheme is Fiona Muirhead, who has been working at the Joint Secretariat since October 2009.

Fiona, aged 42 from Shafton in Barnsley, had been unemployed for 18 months before hearing about the scheme through Cudworth Resource Centre, which offers local residents help and advice on employment.

Since starting at the Joint Secretariat, Fiona has worked in the Human Resources and Business Support Section and the Fire and Rescue Authority's Policy and Performance Team.

Fiona said: "I can't commend the Future Jobs Fund highly enough. It has provided me with practical experience which I hope will help me in my search for long term employment and more importantly given me the confidence to try new things and meet new people."

The Future Jobs Fund is also part of the Young Person's Guarantee, which means that everyone between the ages of 18 and 24, who has been looking for work for a year, will get an offer of a job, work experience or training, which will last at least six months.

Martin McCarthy, head of policy and performance at SYJS, said: "With the current economic climate it is more difficult than ever for people to find work, with many suffering the consequences of the financial crisis.

"The Future Jobs Fund is a fantastic way of helping people like Fiona by offering practical assistance and advice on employment, giving them the opportunity to complete training courses or work experience with the ultimate aim of getting them back into long term employment."

Based on Regent Street in Barnsley, South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat provides a range of support services to the county's Police, Fire, Transport and Pensions Authorities. For more information call (01226) 772 800 or visit [www.southyorks.gov.uk](http://www.southyorks.gov.uk).