

Fishmonger Apprenticeships, present and future

In the last few years Apprenticeships for fishmongers have been transformed and have become readily available throughout the UK, from Grimsby to Londonderry, from Cornwall to the Shetlands, through one of the 14 Seafish recognised apprenticeship providers we have helped to establish over the last three years.

There are now more than 100 fishmongering apprentices registered and working through their programmes. Most of these are at Level 2 and apprentice fishmongers are completing their intermediate fish and shellfish certificates, while a few are tackling a full Level 3 advanced fish and shellfish diploma.

One of the first fishmongers to complete their apprenticeship in the UK, and the first to do so in Wales is Sarah O'Conner of Fabulous Fish in Chepstow. When Sarah embarked on her apprenticeship only Level 2 was available in Wales, but with three providers now covering Wales and the Seafood Training Network for Wales fully active, this part of the UK is one of the best served for apprenticeships and training.

In England there are changes on the horizon. In 2018 the *Trailblazer Apprenticeship* initiative is set to replace the existing fishmonger apprenticeship programmes with Trailblazer Apprenticeships.



This initiative will see the end of the hugely popular Level 2 and 3 fish and shellfish apprenticeships in England in two years when they will be replaced by a Level 2 Fishmonger Trailblazer Apprenticeship. The trailblazer is currently being developed by a small group of fishmongers, and



the draft standard was sent out for consultation by fishmongers during February 2016. By March the *Trailblazer Apprenticeship Employer Group* under the Chairmanship of Andrew Kenny will have completed the Standard and it will be ready for submission and approval to the Dept. for Business Innovation and

Skills (BIS). There will still be a great deal of work to be done though before we are ready to roll out the Fishmonger Trailblazer in 2017/18 so please watch this space.

Fish and Shellfish Apprenticeships

Elsewhere in the UK, and in England until 2017/18, the apprenticeship of choice for fishmongers will be the current fish and shellfish industry skills apprenticeship, so if you are interested please don't delay but get in touch with your nearest Seafish recognised apprenticeship provider.

Other News

Traineeships – pre employment training and work experience programmes for the seafood industry are to be piloted in Lancashire and the Humber regions. The Traineeships will include fishmongering if we can find employers willing to offer a work placement. The Traineeships will launch in March.

For more information on all of the issues covered in these articles visit the *Fishmonger News* section of www.seafoodacademy.org or the NFF website.