

Area North Committee – 25 September 2013

## 9. Martock Job Club

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Tracey Smith, the Martock Job Club Coordinator will attend the committee to make a brief presentation on the role and current activities of the job club service.

Martock Parish Council opened the Martock Job Club in September 2012 after a survey carried out by the Making the Most of Martock Community Partnership identified a need for support for residents who were unemployed and finding it difficult to find work.

The following information has been provided by Tracie to help inform the presentation and questions.

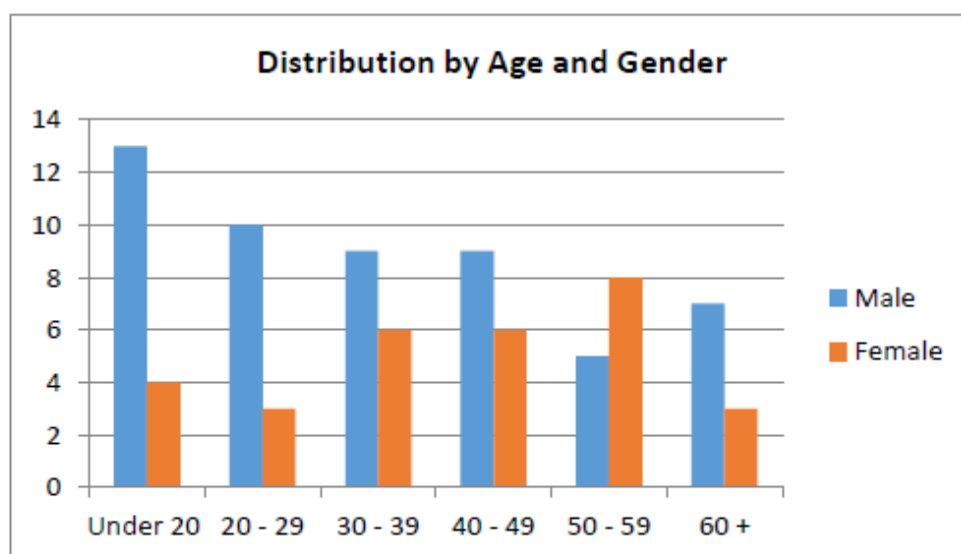
### Introduction to the Martock Job Club

The club is open every weekday morning (except Monday) and operates from the Youth Club in Church Street. It aims to offer free practical help and friendly advice to anyone of any age looking for work, training or volunteering opportunities or starting a business. News of local job vacancies (including those not advertised elsewhere) are on display.

The Club is grant-funded and is independent from the more well-known agencies such as Job Centre Plus, though it works with them in order to best help its clients. A part-time manager is employed, who works alongside a group of volunteers.

### Attendance (January – August 2013)

	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	August	Total
Total Visits	47	39	50	33	25	47	62	56	359
New Job Seekers	13	11	7	4	2	3	14	6	60



As the above tables show attendance figures have been consistently rising. A number of job seekers come to the Job Club at least once a week.

The majority of job seekers have been male, though in July and August there was a shift with more women approaching the centre for advice and younger students looking for holiday work advice or apprenticeships. A focus for September (post school holidays) has been to target female job seekers in the area (many of which will not be a part of the statistically unemployed in the area).

### **Volunteers**

The Job Club is supported by a team of volunteers. Volunteering with the club can also help those seeking work and it is intended to expand the volunteer base and look to take on more short term volunteers to give them valuable experience, thereby assisting with their job searches and CV credibility.

### **Marketing – to job seekers and local employers**

Although numbers have been increasing, the current marketing priority is still to attract job seekers to the club. Marketing activities have included local media, posters in and around the area and leaflets handed out by Job Centre Plus.

Whilst the early focus of the project has been on job seeker numbers, contacts with local employers are a key objective for the job centre service. The manager has visited seven local companies in the past two months and made contact with a further four. This has increased understanding of the local requirements of employers and helped promote use of the centre itself for recruitment.

Links have been with SSDC, Yarlinton and Careers Southwest to help with signposting and referrals.

### **Summary of results (September 2012 to August 2013)**

- 114 job seekers have been supported
- 40 job seekers back into employment
- 18 of the positions were found within the Martock and surrounding parish area
- 5 have relocated or decided for health reasons not to continue looking for work
- 11 are no longer in contact; it is presumed that some have found employment

### **Feedback and Evaluation**

When a job seeker finds employment or decides not to look any more due to ill-health or relocation, a questionnaire is sent asking for their feedback on the experience they had using the Job Club. Feedback has been very positive and complimentary to the service provided.

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