

# Delegates vow to tackle unemployment

RYAN MAHER

A conference to tackle unemployment rates across Tayside has been held in Perth.

Councillors and Citizens Advice Bureaux from Angus, Dundee and Perth met at the Dewars Centre to discuss challenges facing local workers.

The conference was established after the three bureaux received 1,999 employment-related cases over the six months from October to March.

It is hoped the group's advice will help draw a plan to improve employment rates across Tayside.

Dundee CAB manager Mary Kinninmonth, said: "There is many issues with employment.

"It ranges from zero hour contracts, redundancies, pensions, retirement and discrimination.

"Advisers from all the CABs in the area have been reporting increasing numbers of cases for the last few years and many of these have been about problems in the workplace.



**Dr Vanesa Fuyertes from the University of the West of Scotland delivers a talk at the conference.**

"We thought it would be good to look specifically at the problems of those who are in work but having problems with their pay or rights, as these make up a huge number of the local population across Tayside.

"What we want to do now is take a look at the comments and collectively work with agencies across Tayside to see if we can proactively plan ahead to change employment."

Perth energy firm SSE also joined local universities and services across Tayside for the conference.

Throughout the day topics including disability, Brexit, benefits and universal credit were discussed in an attempt to reduce unemployment.

Chris Ahern, Conservative councillor for Perth and Kinross, said: "There is now more of an understanding regarding employment across Tayside and in Perth and Kinross.

"We are building a lot of houses across Perthshire and we need to bring businesses in.

"When businesses want to come into Scotland we need to make sure Perthshire is an attractive place to be. That is the same for everywhere across Scotland, which is challenging. However, I now have more information which I can pass on to the council."

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