

Recession will lead to 'lost generation' of young people

A Prince's Trust survey warns that young victims of the recession will find it hard to secure jobs and attain happiness in the future

An unemployed and dejected "lost generation" of young people will find it increasingly hard to secure jobs and attain happiness in the future, according to a survey released today. The young unemployed are already significantly less happy and confident – even about health, family relationships and friends – than those in work, it claims. (...)

"Firms have just simply stopped hiring," said Blanchflower, a former member of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. "Even graduates have gone down the spiral and taken the less [demanding] jobs. It has pushed the people at the bottom out of work." (...)

The Youth Index reveals that those out of work are significantly less happy with their health, friendships and family life than those in work. Nearly one in 10 young people claim that unemployment drove them to drugs or alcohol. The survey, based on interviews with 2,088 16 to 25-year-olds, found that unemployed young people are also more likely to feel ashamed, rejected and unloved more of the time.

Last night the employment minister, Jim Knight, said: "We know from the recessions of the '80s and '90s that long term unemployment can affect young people not just while they are out of work but for many years to come. We're also investing over £1bn to create 400,000 new youth job and training opportunities so that no young person gets stuck in long term unemployment." A quarter of young people who are or have been unemployed claim their joblessness caused arguments with parents or other family.

Martina Milburn, chief executive of The Prince's Trust said: "Young people bore the brunt of the recession last year, with one in five 16-to-24-year-olds out of work today. The result is a generation of undiscovered skills and talents. We must invest in these young people, re-building their self-esteem, to ensure that today's unemployed do not become tomorrow's unemployable."

The Guardian, 4 January 2010 (abridged)

1. **Present this text**
2. Go to <http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/> and explain what Prince's Trust does.