



Supported Apprenticeship Scheme – Case Study

Samantha is almost 21 years old and is an apprentice at Home Instead based in Ormskirk, which is an organisation providing care mostly for older people. Samantha is studying Business Administration Level Three through West Lancashire College.

Sam has a dual role; she spends some of her time undertaking business administration duties and the rest of her work involves being in a team of people from statutory authorities and other organisations involved in the care of people who have suffered brain injury.

Sam says that she really enjoys her job which brings her fresh challenges and new learning opportunities every day. She likes being an apprentice and says that it is an

ideal route into employment for younger people and has provided her with the opportunity to develop a career.

Apprenticeship Awards a Great Success

West Lancashire's top apprentices and the employers who invest in apprenticeships had their achievements recognised at the 2014 West Lancashire Challenge Apprenticeship Awards.

More than 70 people from the private, public and community sectors enjoyed the apprenticeship awards business breakfast at Wrightington Hotel and Country Club on Friday 4th April 2014. The event was organised by West Lancashire Borough Council and the West Lancashire Challenge Project, in association with Downtown in Business.

The following awards were presented by Councillor Adrian Owens, West Lancashire Borough Council portfolio holder for Regeneration:

Apprentice of the Year Award:

- Winner – Sam Maison, Home Instead Senior Care (UK) Ltd
- Highly Commended – Aaron Vaight, Wates Living Space
- Highly Commended – Ben Peel, Taylor's Farm Shop Ltd
- Highly Commended –



Eleanor Sharrock, Burscough Priory Science College

- Highly Commended – Kirstie Dwan, West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service

Large Apprenticeship Employer Award:

- Winner – Wates, Living Space
- Highly Commended – SCA Hygiene Products Ltd

SME Apprentice Employer Award:

- Winner – Taylor's Farm Shop Ltd
- Highly Commended – Riverside Truck Rental Ltd
- Highly Commended – M&D Cleaning Supplies Ltd

If you're interested in apprenticeships or looking for support to help you become an apprenticeship employer, please visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/business or contact Tracey Shaw, Business Engagement Officer, on 01695 712555 or email tracey.shaw@westlancs.gov.uk

Good Enterprise Lab



At the end of January a group of 35 people gathered at Edge Hill University for a day full of experimentation and conversation. Representatives from the Private, Public and VCF sectors came together to explore how they might work together more effectively to address social challenges in West Lancashire. Delegates chose one of three topics they were particularly

interested in and they were split into three groups to explore issues on employment, food sustainability as well as health and wellbeing.

There was not only some great feedback at the end of the day but a commitment from many to carry out some specific actions and the motivation to continue to further development ideas and initiatives.

Yummy Mummies'

Every Tuesday Young People's Service runs a parent and baby group where mums aged 16-20 have the opportunity to get together and have fun with their babies. They can also get help and support with things such as benefits, housing, employment, education, health and relationships. By joining the group, mums can access other activities like baby first aid, baby massage, day trips, swimming sessions and photo shoots with their baby – the list goes on.

Here's what Pam Catherall of Young Peoples Service has to say "Here in West Lancashire, we are incredibly proud of our young mums, most of whom are in education, employment or training and their number is more than double the county average. YPS works hard to support young mums by developing relationships with them and offering ongoing practical and reactive support. We are only ever a phone call, text or inbox away!!"

Baby group Skelmersdale library- every Tuesday 1- 3pm.

Please contact on Helen Watson on 07824434397.

West Lancs Social Enterprise Hub AGM

West Lancs Social Enterprise Hub held it's AGM on 9th April at Digmoor Community Centre in Skelmersdale. The event was attended by more than 30 experienced and budding entrepreneurs who had ample opportunity to network as well as picking up some ideas for business development and funding.

Prior to stepping down as chair, Maureen Fazel gave her final report and talked about some of the exciting work that the Good Enterprise Lab has been doing in recent months as well as the new social enterprises that have been set up by the community centres in West Lancs formerly under the financial management of West Lancs Borough Council.

Maureen stepped down as Chair and Gordon Hempton was voted into the role. Gordon will be assisted by Gill Hughes who will provide the secretariat.

Maureen agreed to stay on the management committee in an advisory role and an appeal went out to encourage other entrepreneurs who feel they could offer some support and would like to get involved, to put themselves forward.

Following the formal AGM we heard from a number of speakers, some of whom gave their stories and other presented on specific topics such as future funding opportunities. The event closed with more networking over an excellent lunch.

Get Online Get Ahead

The West Lancashire Challenge has recently hosted two events aimed at providing people in West Lancashire with the digital skills – such as creating a CV or setting up an e-mail address – that could help their chances of accessing training or employment opportunities. The events were supported by a range of local providers including the Challenge partners, Job Centre Plus, National Careers Service and Lancashire Adult Learning and participants benefited from computer and internet demonstrations, help with job searches and advice on getting online at home.



The first event was held at Digmoor Community Centre on Tuesday 28th January 2014, with an attendance of around 60 people. Of those who attended 85% said they found the event useful and informative, whilst 13% set up an e-mail account on the day using the support available and 30% thought they would access a job club or training after the event.



Valerie Poulter receiving her Kindle Fire prize

After the successful event at Digmoor, a follow up event was held at Skelmersdale Library on Thursday 27th March 2014, and around 100 people attended. To support the digital theme of the events, participants also had the chance of winning prizes, including an iPad, or a PC. A number of PCs had been donated by Edge Hill University to help the people of West Lancashire to get online at home.

Feedback from both events has been extremely positive, with many participants registering for training courses as a result of attending. All the providers who supported the events have shown a lot of interest in taking part in any future Get Online Get Ahead events.

The next Get Online, Get Ahead event will take place on Thursday 19th June, 10am – 1pm, Skelmersdale Library.



This Project is funded by the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership



For more information on the West Lancashire Challenge please call:

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Or email: gillian@wlcvs.org