



Lancashire Apprentice
Ambassador Network

Newsletter

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Case Studies

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Blackpool Teaching Hospital has several IT and Data Analysis apprentices working at the Trust in the large IT department. Gary Raphael, Finance Director at Lancashire STP says "In Lancashire and South Cumbria we want to ensure that there are development opportunities for younger people from our local communities who feel a sense of commitment to the services we provide for our population. We want to work with apprentices to develop their skills, foster a sense of belonging in our organisations and create a growing team of home grown talent to enable our services to be staffed into the future"



Chris Whyte one of our Apprentice Ambassadors is currently doing his level 3 in Software Development. Chris is passionate about his work and apprenticeships and was awarded "Apprentice of the Year" award in October at the NHS Directors of Informatics Conference in Blackpool.

Tim Bennett - Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance & Performance, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has said "I believe apprenticeships offer a great way to grow talent and help provide young people with a way of developing their careers".

Lancashire Constabulary

Jane Ward from Lancashire Constabulary one of the network's Employer ambassadors tells us her story of returning to an Apprenticeship after a decade:

I started my own Apprenticeship journey back in July 2000 when I started my Business Administration Apprenticeship at 16 years old. I thoroughly enjoyed building my portfolio and collecting evidence for the Apprenticeship. I had the bug for this method of learning and once I had successfully completed my Level 2 and 3 I was in a fortunate position to be able to complete the AAT Level 2-4 on the Apprenticeship programme as well. I loved being able to earn money and learn at the same time. This gave me the freedom I required and the passion to continue to learn throughout my adult life.

In September 2018 I started the Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship and although it has been over 10 years since I completed my last Apprenticeship I am so happy to be back and finally working at this level. It has taken me a couple of months to get used to the new work life balance required for this Apprenticeship and adapt my...



Pendle Council

Here's Aqsa in the planning team to Pendle Borough council. Aqsa was a finalist in the national Asian Apprenticeship Awards & completed her NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration with Nelson & Colne College whilst doing her apprenticeship in their legal department.



...learning to the fact I now I have three children under 12 but I am eager to be successful on the programme and share my experience with others. Since I started on the programme I have been able to show my children that learning is a lifetime opportunity and although it may be difficult at times it is worth the effort and dedication.

I have always championed Apprenticeships and I love the fact that I now have a role dedicated to doing this as the Apprenticeship Officer at Lancashire Constabulary.

We currently have over 50 individuals completing Apprenticeships in varying roles including Business Administration, Team Leading, Learning and Development, Senior Leaders, AAT, Digital Marketing and more.

What our Ambassadors have been up to over the last few months

Apprenticeship Expo / Business Expo event at Preston Guild Hall

An event organised by The Shout Network aimed at schools and learners on Tuesday 26th March and at businesses on Friday 29th March. Lancashire WBL Executive Forum attended both events along with several of the ambassadors from our network. Here are their experiences of the days:

Mary Toal - Office Manager at Crowberry Consulting

"I attended the Preston Guild Apprenticeship Expo in March and supported the Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassador Network. I was representing Crowberry

Consulting Ltd an employee and also as an

Apprentice myself. The event was very well attended by a range of local schools and colleges and also the parents of the students attended. It was great to talk to the students about what is entailed in being an apprentice and how the parents can also support their children to apply".



Bernie Markham - HR Manager at South Ribble Borough Council

Don't forget to let Cath know when you have attended an event or promoted apprenticeships within your own company. cath@lancsforum.co.uk

National Apprenticeship Week 2019 - Blaze a Trail

The 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week ran from 4 to 8 March 2019.

The theme for NAW2019 is 'Blaze a Trail', inspired by the 'Fire it Up' marketing campaign.

Forbes Solicitors

Carla Jenkinson an employer ambassador from Forbes Solicitors attended the National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair at Academy@ Worden. This event was attended by other employers and many local colleges and training providers. Throughout the course of the morning every learner from Yr. 8 to Yr. 11 visited the stands and were able to ask questions about apprenticeships.



North Lancs Training Group

Two of our Apprentice Ambassadors bravely took on Voldemort by hosting Harry Potter themed events daily throughout National Apprenticeship Week for learners from several schools from the Hyndburn, Blackburn, Burnley and Pendle area. Wizard Apprentices Oliver Crookham and Alisha Clarkson hosted these events in the Old Bakery at NLTG with activities including creating an edible Sorting Hat!!



Westinghouse

Westinghouse continued its tradition of embracing UK National Apprenticeship Week this year with an action-packed agenda led by the company's UK apprentices.

UK National Apprenticeship week was 4-8 March this year, and is an important celebration for Westinghouse. Our company's UK Apprentice Training Centre has produced around one-third of our current UK workforce over its 60-year history, including the majority of the current UK lead team. The training centre is located at the company's Springfields site, which produces more than 15 percent of the UK's electricity demand.

This year's celebrations included Westinghouse hosting the National Skills Academy for Nuclear's (NSAN) Regional Board meeting. This involved the apprentices giving a tour of the Apprentice Training Centre and insight into life as a Westinghouse apprentice to around 30 key leaders at the heart of driving the UK's nuclear skills agenda. Feedback from the visitors was extremely positive. The apprentices did a fantastic job of showcasing the excellent apprenticeship programme, which produces so many highly skilled nuclear professionals for Westinghouse and also trains apprentices for other external companies across the North West of England.

Westinghouse also welcomed Nuclear Engineering apprentices from British Aerospace's (BAE) Barrow base, which was extremely beneficial for both companies' apprentices, who discussed the similarities and differences in their apprentice programmes. The visit was an excellent example of the importance of apprenticeships in the UK and the benefits of the career paths, which can take you all over the world with your companies.

Some of the UK lead team who are former apprentices at Springfields visited the Apprentice Training Centre to talk with the current intake of apprentices, to offer advice, share experiences and inspire Westinghouse's future leaders. Both the apprentices and the lead team took a great deal from the visit.

The week concluded with an apprentice charity fundraising day where the apprentices undertook multiple activities to raise money for the UK Charity Partner, Kidneys For Life.



Live Broadcasts

Live Broadcast ran every day during NAW with interviews featuring a wide range of apprentices from different employers, sectors, backgrounds and apprenticeship levels. Apprentices discussed their journey and explained why they chose an apprenticeship.

Our very own Paige [featured on the Tuesday 5th.](#)



Lancashire County Council

As part of National Apprenticeship Week some of LCC's current learners have talked about their experiences of studying an apprenticeship.

Daniel Sergeant, Technical Support Officer, is studying a level 4 Associate Project Management apprenticeship

"I was previously employed as an apprentice at a local engineering company and for various different reasons I really didn't enjoy my time there. As a result, I was rather apprehensive prior to starting my first apprenticeship here at LCC. But my view on apprenticeships completely changed due to my experiences here. I'm a massive supporter of apprenticeships now and always will be! I couldn't recommend them enough. It has been extremely beneficial learning the academic aspects of an apprenticeship via college and tutoring, whilst having the support from my managers and with a team of people around me who understand that I am learning, continually helping me to progress in the workplace. I therefore feel lucky, as I know that not all employers can be as supportive or can provide the opportunities that have been provided to me throughout my time as an apprentice."



Mark Ormerod is also studying for the level 4 Associate Project Management apprenticeship.

"Before starting an apprenticeship, I wasn't keen - I'm not sure if this was a stigma I felt apprenticeships had, or the idea of doing education alongside work. Having joined my team initially as a Work Start, having dropped out of college it has giving me a great opportunity to gain qualifications as well as working, so this has definitely changed my perception."



Ellie Rigby has successfully completed her level 2 in Business Administration and is now working towards level 3.

"The work experience you get from being an apprentice is amazing and there are also opportunities to progress onto higher levels as well as opportunities in the workplace. I would encourage anyone to consider apprenticeship training as the range of courses is wide, personal to yourself and you can earn while you learn."

Gaby Painter is studying a level 3 apprenticeship in core business support within the Records Management team.

"Doing an apprenticeship in a certain team/industry doesn't mean you have to stay doing that particular job, it opens you up to vast opportunities due to the level/points you receive at the end of the apprenticeship it gives you a feel for a workplace alongside the deeper learning and understanding of your role.

I feel that doing the apprenticeship it has helped me considerably with my IT skills and how to use them efficiently. It has also given me more of an understanding of the various aspects of my role"



Lancashire WBL Executive Forum (LWBLEF)

LWBLEF attended the Shout Expo at Preston Guild Hall during March to promote the apprenticeship Network. Phoebe McQueen from MDBA who is a NW ambassador joined us on the day

LWBLEF also worked closely with the North West Apprenticeship Ambassador network (NWAAN) and the Lancashire Skills & Employment Hub on a social media campaign that took place during National Apprenticeship Week (NAW). We worked with 10 of our Employer Apprenticeship Ambassadors in Lancashire to either produce their own videos to promote Apprenticeships, complete a case study template or be filmed by Learn Live.

As well as being filmed by Learn Live, Paige our ASK co-ordinator has been filmed answering Apprenticeship myth busting questions. Preston's College have also got involved and have filmed staff answering the questions.

Follow the links below to see the videos

Paige Lancashire WBL Executive Forum - [Apprentice video](#)

Ellyce Morris - Preston's College - [Apprentice video](#)

Linzi Monks - Preston's College - [Employer Ambassador video](#)



Meet our new Apprenticeship Ambassadors

Lancashire County Council



Vicky Lowton



Vanessa Carthy



Bee Kershaw



James Beardwood

Welcome to our four new Employer Ambassadors from Lancashire County Council

Apprentices have always been part of the fabric of Lancashire County Council as the investment in employees undertaking nationally recognised qualifications, are not only beneficial to employee development, but the wider economy of Lancashire. Since the introduction of the Apprentice Levy, the investment into apprentice training at the Council has increased. Working collaboratively with training providers, including two Lancashire Universities has enhanced our apprentice offer and additionality to the Council.

The Authority undertakes a combination of recruiting new apprentices but has also identified the value in engaging existing employees and providing them with the opportunity to access apprentice training. The benefits of apprentices, where newly recruited or upskilling existing employees, provides these employees with the opportunity to learn on the job, for their understanding and skills to be stretched, to learn new skills, become occupationally competent and to progress in their chosen careers or progress to new areas of work – adding value to the workforce, the Council and the economy of Lancashire.

Training



E-Safety Training

North Lancs Training group in Accrington have very kindly offered FREE training places for Lancashire Forum Apprenticeship Ambassadors on their next e-safety training session.

The next E-Safety training session will be held on Wednesday 10th July, starting at 9:15 and finishing at approximately 2pm. The session will be held at NLTG The Old Bakery, Grange Lane, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 2BU. Lunch will be provided

Below is a testimonial from Alisha who attended the last session.

"I attended the E Safety training with the expectation of learning how to stay safe online in the workplace. I found that this course was extremely informative for both work purposes and in my personal life. Mark and Karen touched base on many different topics, they talked about digital parenting, staying safe on social media and what possible support is available. It also included a mixture of group exercises and a group quiz which made the course really fun! Overall, I think this training was fantastic! It gave us the opportunity to ask any questions and look at real life case studies, I would recommend that it is useful for anyone to attend."

To book a place on the session please send your details and any dietary requirements to Cath Robinson cath@lancsforum.co.uk

General Information

Apprenticeship National Minimum Wage increase from April 2019

Apprentices are entitled to be paid the [National Minimum Wage](#). The current [minimum wage rate](#) for an apprentice is £3.70 per hour and this rate applies to apprentices under 19 and those aged 19 or over who are in their first year.

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage is increasing from April 2019:

- The apprentice rate (for apprentices aged under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship) will increase from £3.70 to £3.90. Make sure you know the minimum wage rate to which your apprentice is entitled.

Further information can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Useful resources

[Off the Job](#) – Myth Busting Factsheet

SAVE THE DATE

The next Apprenticeship Ambassador Network meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th April 10-1pm at NLTG Bradshawgate offices in Accrington and will include networking and lunch.

Please confirm your attendance with Cath Robinson if you haven't already.

