

## Walsall Council Apprenticeship Programme – Endless Possibilities Pre-Apprenticeship support for Looked After Children/Care Leavers

The council has made a commitment to support its looked after young people/care leavers to be able access Apprenticeship opportunities both within and outside of the council. Specifically we will work with our line managers to 'ring fence' opportunities across the organisation on its internal **Endless Possibilities Apprenticeship** Programme.

To give our young people the very best chance of accessing/competing for opportunities, Pre-Apprenticeship support has been developed and can include the below. It is important to state that support will be person centred and therefore bespoke, ensuring the very best outcomes for the young people concerned. The Apprentice Lead has already achieved successes using this unique approach. In addition to the support below the Virtual School will offer wrap around financial support to address any individual needs.

- A guaranteed one to one interview with the Apprenticeship Programme Lead
- An initial bespoke work experience placement timeframe will be developed to suit the individual
- Shorter work taster sessions
- Support with how to apply for jobs, complete application forms, have a positive interview provided by a range of training and recruitment providers.
- Mock interviews which are predicated on the competency based interviewing approach provided by our links within the community
- Access to a suite of e-learning modules including: Introduction to the Local Government, confidence and assertiveness, protecting information, effective time management, email for beginners provided through our Learning and Development Team.
- Access to a range of face to face learning opportunities, including: customer service, resilience training, safeguarding awareness training, a host of health and safety training including, as appropriate, First Aid

In addition to the above, during the Pre-Apprenticeship period, the young person will be coached/mentored not only by their own Personal Advisor, a coach from the Virtual School and also by experienced officers within the council's Learning and Development Team as well as officers from the wider council directorates.

To make a referral we will need the young person's CV and a pen picture of what their career ambitions are and how they are ready for the World of Work.

For more information and to refer a young person please contact **Helena Baxter**, Apprenticeship Lead on **07767 615214** or email **Helena.Baxter@walsall.gov.uk** 





