



July 2015 – Issue 5

South Gloucestershire apprenticeship programme

Welcome to our latest newsletter which provides more information about the South Gloucestershire apprenticeship programme.



Council commended for apprenticeship scheme

South Gloucestershire Council was short-listed for a major award in recognition of the work we do to boost young people's career prospects.

We made it to the finals of the Bristol Post and Bath Chronicle Apprenticeship Awards 2015 in the category of Large Employer of the Year, narrowly missing out to overall winners Rotork, a manufacturing and engineering company based in Yate. These awards aim to celebrate the best and brightest apprentices in our part of the world.

Apprenticeship Programme Manager, Elaine Eldridge said: "We were thrilled to get through as a finalist of these prestigious awards. The scheme has gone from strength to strength with so many young people having successfully completed their apprenticeships. Many have found employment following their programmes, with some kick-starting a career here at the council or with partners, whilst others have gone on to further study with the advantage of having real work experience behind them."

Find out more about our apprenticeship programme

If you are interested in finding out more about our apprenticeship programme then contact Apprenticeship Programme Manager Elaine Eldridge Tel: 01454 865884 or email elaine.eldridge@southglos.gov.uk. To find out more about apprenticeships in general - for both young people and employers - visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

Apprentice update

We caught up with two apprentices to find out how they're benefitting from the programme.



Eric Sanders, 22, Level 4 Leadership & Management Economic Development Assistant

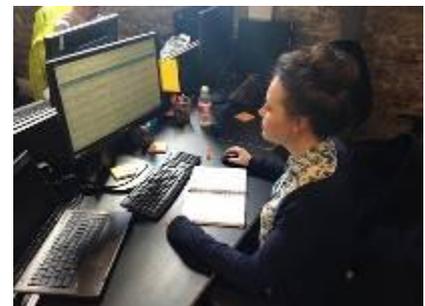
“I have learned a number of valuable skills and processes essential to my role throughout the completion of my level 3 Business Admin NVQ. In my first year at the council, I learned the procedures required to successfully organise and execute small and large scale community events such as Armed Forces Day and local job fairs, whilst working with external groups and companies. I also became involved in planning consultancy responses and monitoring occupancy levels of trading estates in the area.

I have developed numerous skills during my role as an Economic Development apprentice. The areas where I have developed the most since joining South Gloucestershire Council are my organisational skills and my confidence in public speaking and communication, as I have been asked to give a number of presentations.

The level 3 course was well suited to my role at the council and the support I received from college was excellent. I have chosen to continue the apprenticeship route, by enrolling on a level 4 apprenticeship in Leadership and Management. Upon completing my level 4 apprenticeship, I would like to enrol on the level 5 course, as it would further increase my skills, and would provide me with more career opportunities in the future.”

Jamie-Renée Cooke, 20, NVQ Level 4 in Business Management/Economic Development Assistant

“Over the past year I have been working as an apprentice in the economic development team at Invest Bristol & Bath (IBB). IBB is an inward investment agency established to attract investment to the region and provide business support for companies locating to the area and those already here to grow.



Having completed my apprenticeship and gained an Advanced Level 3 NVQ in Business Administration, I was given the opportunity to join South Gloucestershire Council as a permanent member of staff, working as an Economic Development Assistant.

I have already learnt a vast array of new skills as well as building upon the knowledge I developed whilst undertaking my apprenticeship. During my work placement at IBB, I had the opportunity to get involved in a variety of tasks from finance to marketing. The inward investment side of the job role was really interesting and I knew I wanted to expand my knowledge on the subject. Now working in the economic development team, I am given more responsibility to undertake work tasks and apply my knowledge and common sense. I have begun to research the different Enterprise Areas and I get involved in marketing and updating the website with news and events taking place in the area. Whilst working as a permanent member of staff, I'm also completing a Level 4 NVQ in Business Management. I'm hoping this qualification will allow me to further my career and give me the qualifications needed to one day progress onto a managerial level.”