

## National Apprenticeship Week 14 – 18 March

We will be supporting National Apprenticeship Week by hosting a couple of events to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships.



On Monday 14 we will be holding a drop-in session at our council offices in Yate for council staff to find out more about apprenticeships. Then on Friday 18, Chris Skidmore, MP for Kingswood, will be hosting an apprenticeship fair at the Kingswood Community Centre. A wide range of organisations will be exhibiting to discuss the benefits of apprenticeships and the range of opportunities available locally. The event will be held on Friday 18 March from 4-6pm. Further details are available by calling 0117 9081524.

## Ambitions Plus careers event inspires young people



Around 2,000 students attended the Ambitions Plus careers event, which took place at South Gloucestershire & Stroud College's WISE campus in Stoke Gifford in February. Ambitions Plus is organised by South Gloucestershire Council in partnership with South Gloucestershire & Stroud College and the University of Gloucestershire and the organisers joined over 60 employers and training providers who were on hand at the event to speak to students about their future career options.

The interactive event was attended by sixth form and Level 3 college students from schools across South Gloucestershire and aimed to help them make decisions about their future education or career choices. A range of careers advisers were on hand to provide students with careers information, advice and guidance.

There were a number of workshops and seminars affording students the opportunity to try out practical skills such as interview techniques and to talk to experts about going to university, taking a gap year, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes, volunteering, the jobs market and how to start up a business.

South Gloucestershire Council Chair Cllr Erica Williams attended the event and was impressed with the enthusiasm and ambition shown by the young people attending: *"Ambitions is a stimulating and highly informative event for students at secondary schools, academies and colleges across South Gloucestershire. It aims to help prepare young people*

*for their future decisions by identifying pathways in further education, looking at the options for apprenticeships or training, and offering expert advice on career progression.”*

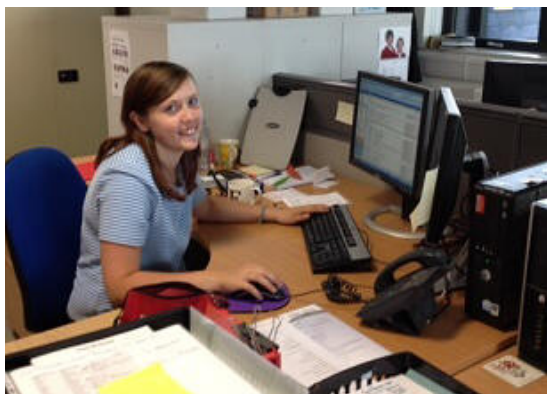
### **Bristol Evening Post and Bath Chronicle apprenticeship awards**

South Gloucestershire Council has submitted a nomination for the large employer of the year category in the Bristol Post and Bath Chronicle apprenticeship awards for 2016 and have also put forward a number of their apprentices for the individual apprentice of the year award. Last year the council was shortlisted for the employer award and hopes to be in a good position to win the 2016 award having made further commitments and enhancements to its apprenticeship scheme this year.

The nomination focuses on how the council has placed the apprenticeship scheme at the centre of its strategy to employ more younger employees and its commitment to training and mentoring apprentices to progress with the council to develop successful long-term careers.

### **Elleney Threader, Business Administration Level 2/Workforce Development Apprentice**

Elleney started her Business Administration apprenticeship in August 2014 in the Workforce Development team within HR. Having completed her apprenticeship, Elleney now works for the council in both the Workforce Development team and the HR Resourcing team within the HR Service Centre.



Elleney, 20, from St. George in Bristol, chose the apprenticeship route to get a better idea of what she wanted to do for her career: “I studied for my A-levels but left not knowing what I wanted to do. After school, I worked in many different part time jobs which I didn’t enjoy a great deal. When I turned 20 I started looking into college again and different apprenticeships to see if anything interested me, which is how I found out about the Business Administration apprenticeship. This appealed to me as I enjoy being organised and I wanted to try something completely new.

Elleney feels the scheme has been an excellent springboard into her career: *‘The council apprenticeship scheme has given me great opportunities. Working part time in the HR Service Centre is something I’m enjoying as it is a new challenge and will widen my skills. I’m looking forward to see where my new skills can take me in the future.’*

And Elleney has impressed her colleagues making a very positive impact at the council. This year she was one of a number of apprentices who were nominated to receive an award as

part of the council's staff recognition scheme. In nominating her, Nick Thorne, her manager praised Elleney for her positivity, her ongoing commitment to learning and for the role she has played in acting as a mentor for other apprentices.

*'Elleney is an extremely positive ambassador for the council and its work, and has acted as a mentor for other apprentices. She is passionate about learning; always willing to learn from colleagues whilst also encouraging others to develop their skills.'*

*'She is proactive and energetic in what she does, tackling new situations with a positive 'can-do' attitude and showing initiative without waiting to be asked. I believe she has the potential to be a highly successful leader and manager in the future.'*