I am delighted to introduce our valued supporters to this Halton edition of the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub newsletter, outlining all Apprenticeships Hub activity in Halton since our project started in May 2017.

I am sure you will agree how valuable these activities have been in helping to raise the profile of apprenticeships within the Halton community.

There are still many opportunities for us to work with you – we’d love to hear your suggestions! This newsletter is for employers, providers, learners and their families – anyone with an interest in Apprenticeships. Please share it with your Halton networks to raise awareness of the City Region’s Apprenticeship Hub and its priorities.

Thank you.

Siobhan Saunders, Chair - LCR Apprenticeship Hub

What is the LCR Apprenticeship Hub?

The LCR Apprenticeship Hub is a collaborative group, responsible to the LCR Employment and Skills Board. Funded by the European Social Fund through the Education and Skills Funding Agency, we aim to increase the awareness, number and quality of Apprenticeships available to regional residents by supporting and coordinating activities, making Apprenticeships work for businesses and individuals.

We are also responsible for developing an Apprenticeship Strategy for the region and driving forward a successful Apprenticeship Growth Plan.

What is an Apprenticeship?

An Apprenticeship is a proper job combined with structured skills development and ongoing assessment. An apprentice is employed and paid whilst they learn, and the Apprenticeship ultimately gives them the professional skills, knowledge and the experience to do a specific job.

Apprentices acquire their skills through a mix of workplace learning, formal classroom learning, and practising tasks in a genuine work environment.

Employers favour Apprenticeships as a method for recruiting and developing staff as they contribute to business growth and productivity, helping create a skilled workforce and bringing benefits to both the employer and the individual. Apprenticeships are available for ages 16 – 65 years.
What has the LCR Apprenticeship Hub achieved in Halton since May 2017?

The LCR Apprenticeship Hub has supported careers fairs at The Grange High School and The Bridge High School.

We attended mock interview sessions at The Heath High School in Runcorn supporting Year 11 students by giving them real interview experience and providing them with constructive feedback on the skills and knowledge employers are looking for.

In Autumn 2017, we commissioned Open the Door Theatre in Education to tour 30 schools with a play “Have You Heard About Apprenticeships?” which was very well received by students and teachers. Over 900 pupils were reached in Halton at The Heath High School, St Chad’s Catholic & Church of England High School, Ormiston Bolingbroke High School, and Wade Deacon High School.

After the performance, evaluations completed by students showed that knowledge of Apprenticeships and Traineeships had risen by 79%

Pupil comment
“I think Apprenticeships can help me get my dream job!”

Teacher comment
“An excellent performance which will have a great impact on pupils and support careers offer”

In association with Windmills the LCR Apprenticeship Hub supported the iCan Skills Show, an adaptable skills event format for schools to use to inform pupils aged 15 and over about careers choices. The project gives pupils the resources to develop personalised career pathways, including the option of Apprenticeships, in LCR growth sectors. An iCan Skills Show recently took place at Wade Deacon High School with 27 Year 11 students participating and speaking to local employers about what it takes to be an ideal apprentice.

Pupil Feedback
“It helped me to see what I want to do when I am older”

Pupil Feedback
“I have learned from today that I need to research and talk to people who can support my passion”
Engineering Open House: Sci Tech Daresbury
The LCR Apprenticeship Hub sponsored the Engineering Open House Family Day at Sci Tech Daresbury on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th July 2017. Daresbury Laboratory opened its doors for over 590 Halton residents and families to explore world class engineering facilities, meet top scientists and apprentices, participate in high quality engineering and science talks, workshops and demonstrations, and discover careers pathways (particularly Apprenticeships) into STEM careers (particularly engineering). The Apprenticeship Hub was there to offer Apprenticeship information, advice and guidance particularly on the STEM sector.

Job Centre Plus
Outreach clinics have proven popular at Runcorn Job Centre Plus (JCP) offices. Based within the Centre once a month the Apprenticeship Hub has been able to offer face to face advice and support to unemployed Halton JCP customers and provide them with information on live Apprenticeship vacancies and how to apply.

How we have supported Halton residents
1127 local Halton residents have been supported by the Apprenticeship Hub since May 2017.

How we have supported Halton employers
Between May and December 2017, the LCR Apprenticeship Hub supported over 100 businesses in Runcorn and Widnes, providing them with Apprenticeship advice, educating them on Apprenticeship Reforms, helping them create Apprenticeship vacancies, and providing information about local Apprenticeship training organisations.

Halton Chamber Business Breakfast
The LCR Apprenticeship Hub attended the Halton Chamber of Commerce Employer Business Breakfast Event to deliver Apprenticeship presentations to 60 Halton employers with advice on Apprenticeship reforms, guidance and recruitment. The skills and recruitment information event took place as part of Halton Chamber’s 1st Tuesday series, the borough’s foremost business networking platform.

Apprenticeship drop-in clinics
The LCR Apprenticeship Hub has delivered drop-in clinics for businesses at The Heath Business Park in Runcorn to provide employers with Apprenticeship advice.

How we have supported key stakeholders in Halton
The Apprenticeship Hub works closely with Halton Chamber of Commerce supporting their members with Apprenticeship advice, Apprenticeship levy information and creating new Apprenticeship vacancies within their businesses.

Halton Borough Council’s Adult Learning Team designed and delivered Presentation Skills training to our Apprentice Ambassadors to equip them with the skills they need to inspire and promote Apprenticeships within the Liverpool City Region.

The Apprenticeship Hub has supported Halton Borough Council with advice on how to use its Apprenticeship levy and in creating and recruiting for new Apprenticeship vacancies in IT, Finance and Business Administration.

Planning meetings have taken place with Halton Council’s 14-19 Team to arrange targeted Apprenticeship information, advice and guidance to young people aged 14 to 19 who are not in education, employment or training.

Meetings have taken place with Riverside College to look at how we can work together to promote high quality Apprenticeship provision in the area.

The LCR Apprenticeship Hub is working closely with Halton People into Jobs in offering a collaborative approach to target Halton unemployed residents. This has included supporting a number of recruitment events offering job opportunities through the Ways to Work ILM programme and Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship opportunities.
Liverpool City Region Health Skills Show 2017

Working in collaboration with our local Health Sector Careers Hub, All About STEM and Shaping Futures, the LCR Apprenticeship Hub co-sponsored a Skills Show to enable over 823 young people, from 39 local schools to take part in interactive activities ranging from learning resuscitation techniques to examining x-rays, all with the purpose of finding out more about the exciting healthcare careers available to them! The impact of the event was hugely positive, with 99% of participants surveyed reporting that they now knew more about the health sector jobs and health-related careers that are available.

Liverpool City Region Apprentice Ambassadors

Apprentice Ambassadors inspire others to become apprentices or to employ an apprentice through telling them about their own apprenticeship journey.

Usually they are existing apprentices or have recently completed their Apprenticeship. Two LCR Apprentice Ambassadors are based within the Heath Business Park at Arvia Technology in Runcorn undertaking Level 3 in Engineering Maintenance and Mechanical Engineering. Another long standing Apprentice Ambassador lives in Halton and works for the Cabinet Office.

Save the date

Liverpool City Region Skills Show
18th June

Not to be missed, the Apprenticeship Hub is planning a huge interactive Liverpool City Region Skills Show on Monday 18th June 2018 at the Exhibition Centre Liverpool, as part of the International Business Festival. It’s a great opportunity for employers and providers to showcase their Apprenticeships offer.

Get involved from the start by contacting apprenticeshiphub@halton.gov.uk

Business Breakfast Briefing
6th March

The Apprenticeship Hub together with Halton Chamber of Commerce will be delivering an Employer Business Breakfast Event on Tuesday 6th March from 7.30 to 9.30am at the Heath Business Park Runcorn.

National Apprenticeship Week
5th - 9th March 2018

Many exciting events are planned - we will keep employers, residents, schools and providers up to date with all the details. Please tell us what activities you are planning, so we can support you and promote via our website (www.apprenticeshiphub.org.uk) and social media.

Would you like support from the Apprenticeship Hub?

We offer a portfolio of free support to schools, employers, training providers and residents in Halton.

Find out how we can help you by contacting apprenticeshiphub@halton.gov.uk

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