

Calderdale & Kirklees Careers

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Press Release

I Work Experience Success can lead to Apprenticeship Opportunities.....

In 2010 Calderdale & Kirklees Careers worked with more than 2,800 local companies to provide work experience opportunities to 7,857 14-18 year old students from Calderdale and Kirklees schools and colleges.

Our 2010 Student Survey shows that 95 % believe that work experience helped them to understand the responsibilities of being at work and 93% commented that work experience is an important influence when making decisions about their future career. For many young people this is their first taste of the world of work. Although one third of them felt confident and comfortable with the placement, the general feeling was one of uncertainty, excitement and a little nervousness. Many of the students feel that work experience will have a long term effect on them: almost half saying that they are keen to learn new skills and a quarter feeling that they now need to work harder in school to achieve their goals.

Key to the success of the placements were 'being treated as an adult' and the 'experience of a 'new' environment' and as one young person commented, *'I think it was fantastic and I missed it when I left'*.

Employers too value work experience. Our 2009/10 Survey of Employers indicates that companies participate in work experience as they and their staff enjoy helping students and like to maintain links with education. Jim Ball from Severn Unival in Huddersfield, commented this week that the two students from All Saints Catholic College on placement with the company had set a very high standard. *"We cannot speak highly enough about both students. They are a real credit to their parents, their school and above all to themselves."* He continued, *"Our experience with taking students has generally been very good, but these youngsters have set a standard that is the one to match."*

40% of employers said they would consider using work experience as a method of recruiting their future work force. Stephen Peacock, director at Alfred Bottomley Ltd in Halifax, said, *"we have used work experience as a means of assessing candidates' suitability for working in our industry."* He has recruited two apprentices who started out on a work experience placement with the company.

The Calderdale & Kirklees Careers 'Recruitline' team offers assistance and advice to companies on the recruitment and training of young people. In 2010, we advertised nearly 1,000 vacancies on behalf of employers; we helped many of these to set up apprenticeship training. We supported 161 young people who were in jobs without training to access suitable training. Overall we helped 2,818 16-18 year olds to access work-based opportunities.

Our aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible get the opportunity to maximise their potential so we will continue to work with local companies to assist them to provide work placements and to grow their businesses with apprentices.

If your company is involved with work experience and apprenticeships we want to extend our thanks and will be in touch in 2011. If you want to become involved or discuss the possibility of offering a work placement or building your business with an apprentice then we would like to hear from you. Please contact recruitline@ckcareers.org.uk or 01484 226750.

For more details visit <http://www.workabout.org.uk/businesses/index.htm>

Ends

Media Contact

For further information contact Linda Beever of Calderdale & Kirklees Careers on (01484) 226700 or e-mail linda.beever@ckcareers.org.uk

Editorial Notes

National Apprenticeship Week is 7th-11th February
<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards/Apprenticeship-Week-2011.aspx>

Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Ltd

Calderdale & Kirklees Careers is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Any surpluses are used to develop the services provided to our clients. As providers of Connexions services, Personal Advisers offer young people information, advice and guidance relating to a number of issues including careers, education and training. Working with partnership organisations within Centres we are also able to offer specialist support in other areas such as health, housing and money. Adults are also encouraged to visit Centres, with specialist Careers 4 Adults advisers available to offer information, advice and guidance on careers, education and training.

Connexions Centres are located in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Halifax,

Huddersfield Connexions Centre	Dewsbury Connexions Centre	Halifax Connexions Centre
24 High Street	Dewsbury Library	16 Alexandra Street
Huddersfield	Railway Street	Halifax
HD1 2LR	Dewsbury	HX1 1BS
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C&K Careers is Investor In People, Positive About Disabled People, Customer First and Matrix accredited.

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www.workabout.org.uk