

Welcome to the Westminster Employment Service - Provider Network Bulletin #February 2021 Issue

We work with Skills, Training and Employment provision across Westminster to ensure collaboration is at the heart of what we do!

Hello,

I hope you are all well,

For those of you who I haven't had the chance to meet, my name is Juliette Foster, Partnerships Manager for WES and part of my role is leading on the Employment and Skills Provider Network. As such this will be the first of a bi-monthly bulletin put together to capture some of the work the team are doing to ensure WES is connected into the wider provision offered across Westminster.

That's all from me, but if you would like to know more about the work I am doing or just want to have a quick catch up, please do get in touch – I'd like to think we can all be on hand to help best support our residents!

E-mail: jfoster@westminster.gov.uk



Employment and Skills Provider Network Meeting – E&SPNM – 27.01.2021

During the last E&SPNM, network members came together to discuss **Disability and Employment**, we were joined by a variety of organisations:

- CNWL
- SEND Westminster Employment* (SEND WE*)
- Unity Works
- DWP

who shared best practice and the work they have been doing to support service users living with disabilities.

We were also joined by SEND WE* Apprentices Angel and Faisa and Maeve, a Unity Works intern, who shared their experiences of working whilst living with a disability.

Angel Shah – SEND WE* Apprentice with Emerson Forde, Connect Westminster Project Co-ordinator during her work placement with Westminster City Council.

Angel *"It was very nice to have an opportunity to do the presentation in a big meeting in front of people"*

If you missed this meeting, you can view the recording here - <https://youtu.be/IUx3iPq9viA>



The next **Employment and Skills Provider Network** meeting will take place on **Wednesday 31st March 09:30 – 11:00**
Theme - **Health and Wellbeing**

Please join us as we discuss how the current climate has impacted the Health and Wellbeing of our residents and what we can do to support them, see MS Teams link here - [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

DWP Latest Updates

- JCP opening hours have now changed to accommodate the most recent social distancing and lockdown measures. **JCP offices will be open from 10:00am – 14.00pm** for vulnerable customers needing additional support, this is a drop-in service.
- Kickstart – **Employers are no longer required to offer 30 vacancies** to be eligible for the scheme, there are no restrictions on how many vacancies they can offer, this change comes as employers reported this as being a barrier to access the scheme
- The Cabinet Office will soon announce their **plans to recruit Disability and Access Ambassadors** to advocate on behalf of JCP customers living with disabilities, who are both in and out of work, across a variety of sectors – More news to follow!

Newest Network Members

The Good Things Foundation – Good Things Foundation is a social change charity that supports socially excluded people to improve their lives through digital -

www.onlinecentresnetwork.org/projects/EveryoneConnected



Career's Academy – Career's Academy provide employment and executive coaching to adults, skills-based training courses, specialist recruitment and venture building services - www.careers-academy.com



The Social Switch – The Social Switch Project is switching the narrative on how social media's relationship to youth violence is understood, tackled and solved. Initially funded by Google.org, it is co-delivered by social business Catch 22 and youth violence charity Redthread - www.thesocialswitchproject.org.uk



For further information on any of the above, please feel free to get in contact - jfoster@westminster.gov.uk

Upcoming Events – Programmes – Recruitment

House of St Barnabas – Wellbeing Wednesdays

Started on Wednesday 17th Feb 21 *Still taking registrations*

The House of St. Barnabas have been collaborating with Crisis, Beyond Food, LinkedIn and Hotel School for a 5-week on-line programme called Wellbeing Wednesdays. The programme is free for anyone with an interest in hospitality and some experience of homelessness. Here are a couple of videos about it - [here](#)

Sign up - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wellbeing-wednesdays-skills-to-make-you-feel-good-tickets-137859863563>



Cardinal Hume Centre – Employment Advisor Vacancy – Closing 5th March

The Cardinal Hume Centre are currently recruiting for an Employment Advisor to join their Employment and Learning Team.

For further information and to apply please see the below link
<https://chc.livevacancies.co.uk/#/job/details/49?target=frame>



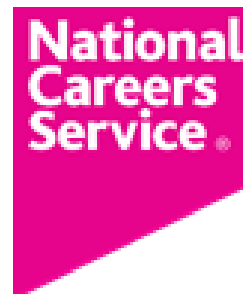
National Careers Service – Get Into Policing Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 11:00am – 12:30pm

National Careers Service London in partnership with the London Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) are hosting a free, virtual information session on how to start a career in Policing

After the presentation, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and register your interest directly with the MPS.

To book your free place on this webinar, register online at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-into-policing-tickets-142875836473>



Acorn Environmental Solutions - Seasonal Park Operatives SBWA – Guaranteed Interview Monday 22nd March – Friday 26th March 2021

STAGE 1 – TRAINING - Complete a one-week pre recruitment programme VIA ZOOM

STAGE 2 – INTERVIEW - Interview with employer organised for the week after training

STAGE 3 – START DATE - TBC at interview if successful

For further information or to refer your clients please contact -
David Smith on 07976 756 483 david.smith@acornenv.co.uk

ACORN
**Environmental
Solutions**

2-3 Degrees – Join 2-3 Degrees and Converse on a series of workshops discussing female empowerment!

- **Session 1** - How to Be Your Best Self - Monday 8th March 2021 5.30pm - 7pm
- **Session 2** - Breaking Barriers, What Does Representation Mean to You?
Wednesday 10th March 2021 5.30pm - 7pm
- **Session 3** - Real Womxn | Real Stories - Friday 12th March 2021 5.30pm - 7pm

You can access further information and find out how to sign your young people up here - <https://tinyurl.com/5f9nfm6c>



Adviser Academy

The Adviser Academy teamed up with WAES and GOALS UK to bring you *GOALS for Wellbeing*, an introductory course aimed at supporting coaches to improve relationships with their clients and gaining valuable techniques to help your clients increase their resilience and change their attitudes towards work.

Employment Coach Testimonial *"The training content was relevant to my work as an employment coach and provided an overview of another resource my client group could benefit from"*

Next Course - Introduction to Child Safeguarding – Local Safeguarding Children Board -LSCB

When - 29th March 2021

Where - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-safeguarding-children-level-1-tickets-123009228915>

For further details, please contact **Sonia Zoumavo, Adviser Academy Manager** - szoumavo@westminster.gov.uk

Westminster Connects

Westminster Connects' volunteering service helps to connect individuals and organisations that want to help with those who need support.

For details of the most current volunteering opportunities with Westminster Connect, please see the below link.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-how-you-can-help/volunteering-opportunities>



Good News...

Believe - A Client Testimonial

"I do not know how or where to start! The feeling of being unemployed for a person who possessed two bachelor's and two master's degrees was very embarrassing. It negatively affected my confidence. In addition to that, the lockdown, introduced in spring, made me feel even more hopeless and held me back.

I decided to contact the Cardinal Hume Centre after doing some research and booked an appointment. Once I entered CHC, the positive environment and warm welcome filled me with hope. During my first appointment, I discussed everything, my skills, experience, knowledge, and goals. My Employment Specialist listened to me and offered her support. This wonderful person was Jeanita Snowdon. Her professionalism and expertise coupled with her warmth let me know I was in the right place! And through working with her I gained confidence and a positive attitude, and this resulted in positive outcomes.

Jeanita and I worked together, we spent time applying for roles, perfecting my CV and putting together detailed personal statements and as a result of our hard work, I was invited to attend a telephone interview with the UK Biocentre - National Research Institute for a Lab Operator position. This was even more unexpected as many people were unfortunately losing their jobs. After a successful telephone interview, I was invited to attend an assessment at a Centre that supports large scale analysis of COVID-19 across the UK. Luckily for me, Jeanita was on hand to support me with my interview preparation. The very next day I received another phone call, I had passed the assessment, and this was shortly followed by an email with an offer letter attached and the invitation to attend my induction!

I now have my dream job, that will allow me to expand and grow with a highly reputable organisation, in the perfect environment, doing what I love! And I can honestly say that without the support from the Employment Team and other members of the staff at Cardinal Hume Centre, it would not have been possible for me to achieve this. Therefore, I would encourage anyone, especially my three children, not to let failure hold them back. You can make your dream come true and all you must do is believe in yourself!"

This week's Good News comes to you from the Cardinal Hume Centre

