

Specialist Employment Team

Newsletter

Volume 4

Welcome to the latest edition of the Specialist Employment Team's (SET) Newsletter. SET offer support to Sandwell residents with a health condition or disability, who are looking for employment and offer a no cost recruitment service to employers.



Whether you are a job seeker, a referral organisation or an employer, we hope you will find the 'good news' stories to be of interest and inspiring.

Re-cap Summer 2025

Summer was an exciting time for the Specialist Employment Team.

In July eight of our LSE job seekers attended an informative and inspiring site visit to Mitie FM's Regional Hub in Birmingham.

New employer partnerships were developed with Housing 21, Mitie FM, Dimensions, Howdens and UK Access Solutions and a number of people commenced employment and accessed work placements.



In addition to this, we have just launched Connect to Work, a new supported employment programme funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority and delivered by Sandwell Council to our residents.

We will be increasing our staff team, expanding our employer engagement and this will enable us to support many more amazing people from marginalised groups in to paid jobs.

Kate Loftus, Senior Manager - Disability Employment



Connect to Work
Supported Employment Programme

Connect to Work is a voluntary employment programme for people age 18-24 with disabilities or health conditions. Connect to Work can also support people from certain disadvantaged groups who do not have a disability or health condition.

- ✓ Support if you are unemployed to help you find work.
- ✓ Support if you are in work but at risk of losing your job.

Contact us:

Enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 5563

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

Mitie FM

Trains, Robots & Lovely People

In July eight of our LSE job seekers got on a train from Sandwell and Dudley Station to visit Mitie FM's impressive T2 site in Solihull.

The group spent the morning shadowing staff, getting a behind-the-scenes look at the world of facilities management and learning about the huge variety of roles and career paths Mitie has to offer.



"Seeing the difference these experiences can make is what motivates me every day" Mel Dovey, Head of Social Value, Mitie

In the afternoon, we met with Head of Innovation and Product Development Heather Downes and were treated to a tour of the Mitie Cleaning & Hygiene Services Centre of Excellence.

Heather gave a fascinating overview of how innovation and technology are shaping the future of cleaning, as well as seeing the latest cleaning robots in action!

Huge thanks to Mel Dovey who organised the site visit and to all the staff (human and robot) who were so friendly and welcoming. The feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive and we were all inspired by the visit.

Bailey's Story

Site visit, work trial, job start

We are so pleased for LSE job seeker Bailey Harker, who has moved into employment with UK Access Solutions this summer.

This is a a very well earned culmination of Bailey's efforts since being on LSE. He has taken part in two work placements, two site visits, a Reverse Jobs Fair and gained his CSCS Card.

We'd also like to thank Ashley at UK Access for being such a positive ambassador for Inclusive Recruitment. By reframing the interview into a site visit and chat, followed by a work trial, he took the pressure out of the process and enabled Bailey to demonstrate his work ethic and practical capabilities.

"Bailey's doing a great job here at UK Access Solutions and we're pleased to count him as a valued member of our team - well done Bailey!"

Ashley Rookes, Managing Director, UK access solutions



"I like everything about my job. I felt proud of myself when I was offered the job."

Sam and Seema were excellent at helping me with my CV and looking for a job. They boosted my confidence"

Bailey Harker, LSE Participant

Gemma's Story

Site Visits, Work Placements & a Job offer

Since being referred to the Specialist Employment Team, Gemma has attended site visits and work tasters to increase her knowledge of different job roles and learn more about cleaning.

Following on from the work tasters, we arranged cleaning work experience opportunities for Gemma with Dimensions and Queensridge Court (Housing 21).

Having excelled in both placements, we were delighted when Gemma successfully applied for a paid cleaning role with Dimensions. She really deserves this opportunity and it's great that all of her hard work has paid off (see more on next page).



"The cleaners have given nothing but positive feedback. Gemma is always willing to help, and she has done a great job. She likes to make sure the work is done and cleaned properly"

Jessica Newey, Housing and Care Manager, Queensridge Court

"I've enjoyed work experience, meeting new people and learning lots about cleaning. I've also gained confidence. I'm really happy now i have been offered a job"

Gemma Pratt, LSE participant

Dimensions

A great new partnership!

Since meeting with Emma, Sorrell and the team at Dimensions, we have loved their enthusiasm and positivity and really appreciated them offering work place opportunities to our LSE participants.

Ash attended his work placement assisting in the office, completing data entry tasks as well as assisting with the organisation of an event, including the marketing.

"I'm so grateful for the time I got to spend with Ash, and I am confident that in the right environment, with the right people, he will absolutely flourish in a paid work environment."

*Sorrel Beech, Regional Co-ordinator,
Dimensions*

Gemma attended a cleaning work placement, which we are delighted to say has led to her being employed on a part time basis as the cleaner for Dimensions Oldbury office.

Having demonstrated her skills throughout the work placement, she applied for the vacancy online and was successful in the interview.

"Gemma has been an absolute delight to work alongside, she takes enormous pride in her work, is impeccably polite and will be an asset to any organisation."



Work Placements

CMT Engineering

We really appreciate the team at CMT who continue to support LSE job seekers by offering work tasters and placements. This is really valuable to us as a service, as it gives us the opportunity to assess our participants in a real work setting, giving them a taster of real working factory.

Kristian is the most recent person to access a work placement and has thoroughly enjoyed the work. The placement has had a really positive effect on his confidence, which will benefit him moving forward.



Meals On Wheels

Thanks once again to Ella and the brilliant team at Meals on Wheels.

LSE Job Seeker Eleanor loves kitchen work but prefers being behind the scenes. Therefore Meals on Wheels is a great placement for her and she is getting on really well.

"Eleanor has really come out of her shell and is enjoying it. She is chatty and chirpy with the staff"

Elaine, Meals on Wheels



Get in touch

Sandwell Council's
Specialist Employment Team

Email: Enquiries_Recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk

Go to: www.sandwell.gov.uk/SETeam



Search "Sandwell Jobs"
on Facebook and send us a message

Call: 0121 569 5981 or 569 5563

We're based at:
Hateley Heath Family Education Training Centre
Huntingdon Road
West Bromwich
B71 2RP

This service supports unemployed Sandwell residents
aged 16 and over who have a disability or mental health
condition and want support to find paid employment.

think
Sandwell

 **Sandwell**
Metropolitan Borough Council