



NEWSLETTER



September 2023 NEWSLETTER

[Walsall Works](#)

01922 654353

walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Works have supported...

From 01 May until 01 Sept



has supported



635

Local Residents



30

Local Business



111

People in to
Employment



86

People enrolled onto online
Skills Network courses



51

People in to accredited training
or further education

Walsall Works programme aims to support local residents into work, training, or apprenticeships. Walsall Works is currently delivering on Restart, Black Country IMPACT and Multiply.

Customers registered to the programme have continued to receive support from our team of employment advisors through virtual communication or via face-to face appointments at a number of local venues across Walsall. We are currently based in 27 co-locations around the borough, so we are able to support you locally in your neighbourhood area.

We host a range of events throughout the year which are always well supported by local employers and training providers. We also attend a lot of community events to help and support our local residents. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for more information about these events.

Should you require any support with your employability e.g., career advice, confidence building, CV preparation, job search assistance or support in accessing training or educational courses, you can arrange an appointment with one of our Employment Advisors by contacting the Walsall Works team by email at walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk, by telephone at **01922 654353** or by visiting www.walsallworks.com

Walsall Works Case Studies



Karim self-referred onto the programme after being told about the support he could receive by another participant. Karim was finding that in the UK, the way of applying for jobs was different to what he was used to. With the help of his Advisor Jane, he applied for a number of different roles. Karim mentioned he wasn't having any luck with the roles he applied for. Jane looked at how he was applying and was showed how to add supporting information onto his applications.

At the end of May, Karim attended TJX and Innovate meetings, he also attended Darlaston Job Fair. He was determined to get into work.

On 13th June 2023, Cardboard Boxes 2 Go advertised job roles, one being a Dispatch Operative, so Jane put Karim's CV forward. Karim was offered an interview that same week. Jane sat down with him and discussed interview techniques prior to attending, the very next day Karim was offered a job but as Production Operative.



Karim's Feedback - *"Walsall works never gives up helping the people in need and I am proof. The best part of Walsall Works is the welcoming behaviour I received from my Advisor. You and your team make a difference and that difference can easily be seen. Going for my 1-1 meetings a few hours a week boosted confidence. People and different organizations said to change my CV, but you helped me to do so. All the support was really awesome. I have not seen this sort of cooperation anywhere before. I was informed about the seminars going on and a facilitator from Walsall works was present there to guide us."*

Kiran initially met HB at an event she was attending at Walsall College. HB approached Kiran and informed that she was eagerly looking for work. Once contact was made HB became open with her experiences and disclosed that she was a victim of domestic violence. Given the circumstances and troubled past, this did not stop HB wanting to aspire for a better career and life for herself. HB expressed that she'd like to go into childcare as this was something she was really passionate about.

In a meeting with HB, Kiran supported her with applying for vacancies and exploring options at Walsall College. Soon after, HB applied for a Trainee Cover Supervisor position for an agency, due to HB's previous teaching experience she was invited for a interview and was soon offered the role.

HB's Feedback - *"When I first met Kiran, she was so good to me, she took time to hear my story and quickly offered me the support I needed. After just two appointments I had a positive mental change, which I know is because of her. She helped with interview techniques and amending my CV. So, because of Kiran I have changed a lot and today I am very positive with my place of study and work. She is a superb job coach at Walsall Works."*

"I'll be sure to tell my friends so they too can register with Walsall Works. This organisation is really amazing and helps so many people like me in changing their lives. Thank you so much to Kiran and all of the Walsall Works team."

Black Country IMPACT

Success of IMPACT



Sadly, the Black Country Impact programme has now come to an end. The programme started in 2016 with the aim to help young adults break down the barriers that may be holding them back from finding work, improving their skills, or gaining qualifications and to empower young people to reach their full potential.

On 14th June 2023, Walsall Council hosted a celebration event for the Black Country Impact programme. Participants, employers, training providers and support services involved were congratulated on their contribution to the project. During the evening, a number of young people received awards for their achievements.

A quote from Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Walsall Council.

“It was a fantastic evening celebrating some brilliant achievements. The Walsall Impact programme has provided invaluable assistance to over 5000 individuals who were previously unemployed or inactive. Through tailored interventions and support, over 3200 participants have received the guidance they needed to overcome obstacles and achieve positive outcomes. We are proud to share that more than 1800 participants have successfully secured employment, returned to full-time education, or earned accredited qualifications, marking significant milestones in their personal and professional journeys. We are immensely proud of the young people who took part and I’d like to congratulate everyone involved in making the programme such a success.”

Case study

Madeleine was referred to Black Country Impact via her Family Support Worker. When Karen (Employment Advisor) first started Madeleine, they started off by breaking down anxiety issues that she was facing, Karen suggested Aspire 4 U which was a counselling service and Madeleine agreed. Karen found out that Madeleine was a big fan of sports and found a 3-week programme at Walsall Football Club which involves gaining employment skills, mentoring and 121 advice. Madeleine found her feet at the programme and loved it!



After researching into further education courses Madeleine might be interested in, they found one for Sport Level 3 at Sandwell College, Karen supported Madeleine with the application process and with great news she was offered a place to start in September. After struggling with anxiety for so long Madeleine made the big step in completing the journey to Sandwell College on her own.

In September 2023, Madeleine now has her Level 3 Sport Qualification and visits P.O.P twice a week at Bloxwich Community Centre to keep building her confidence, she also plays in a girl’s football team on a Saturday and trains once a week.

Multiply



Multiply is a new government funding programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills.

Good numeracy skills may unlock job opportunities and lead to higher wages or prepare you for further study. They also help in everyday life, such as helping children with homework and budgeting money.

There are courses for beginners to more advanced courses such as GCSE Maths, Functional skills Qualifications, Or Equivalent, so you will be able to learn at a pace that suits you.

If you are age 19 and over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can access free numeracy courses through Multiply to build your confidence with numbers and gain a qualification.



SWAPs

Sector-based Work Academy Programmes are designed to help improve the job prospects of unemployed learners and help employers fill vacancies where there is local demand. SWAPs are short, sharp programmes lasting up to 6 weeks.

Preparing for a career in the Civil Service

This three-week programme is accessible both via classroom training and live online sessions you can access from home, it is designed to support individuals looking to work within the Civil Service.

Training Includes:

- Certificate in Team Leading Principles Level 2
- Award in Equality & Diversity Level 1
- Employability Skills
- English & Maths Refresher

Date: 9th October - 27th October

Location: Walsall College - Wisemore Campus & Online Virtual Delivery

Scaffolding

This 18-day training programme will provide local people with the basic trade and wider personal skills required to enter the construction industry. All suitable applicants recruited to the programme will have the opportunity to complete Scaffolding trade training relevant to the job opportunity.

Date: 25th September - 18th October

Location: Walsall College - CCM Kings Norton

Events

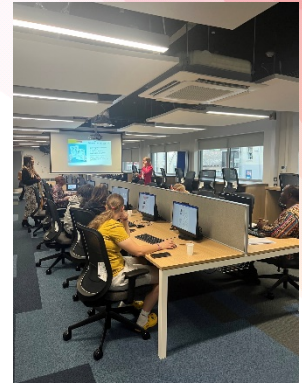
AMEY Employability Event

An employability event with Amey was hosted at the Lichfield Street Hub, despite concern before the event on numbers registered, turned out to be a real success.

We had 127 attendees in total during the day, 35 took part in the CV Skills Workshops administered by Amey in the IT suite and 29 attendees had a 1-2-1 chat on preparing for an interview with them. Amey will keep in touch with all those customers who they engaged with.

Walsall Works registered more than 25 customers on the day.

Amey are hosting a further 12 events between now and November across the UK and because of the success in Walsall they are eager to return within the next 6 months. This was Amey's third event with the last



"The idea of coming here was very stressful but this event has taken all the stress out of looking for work, I don't know why I was so worried"

"It was so useful to have everything in one place, I was able to access everything I need without spending a lot of time on google!"

EXPO

Another resounding success for Walsall Works renowned EXPO.

Walsall Works Expo is the largest job's fair in the West Midlands. The event is proudly organised by Walsall Council and helps hundreds of residents to connect with employers, training providers and partner agencies. With over ten years of Walsall Works delivering vital employment connections to the people of Walsall and wider.

The event attracted 75 exhibitors with a mixture of Businesses both local and national with vacancies and Training Providers with provisions in all sectors on offer.

There was a number of new businesses in attendance offering new job openings including Aldi, HSBC, Biffa, Perfect Group, Amey, Duo Group, Opus People Solutions and Pertemps.

1065 local job seekers braved the rain to attend looking to apply for the hundreds of jobs, apprenticeships, and training courses on offer.

Amongst some early feedback from exhibitors:

Saf from Embark commented – *'It was great to see you all. Massive thank you for the great Expo. It was buzzing! We recruited some great candidates.'*

If you would like to exhibit at our next EXPO, please get in contact with our Employer Engagement officer Rob Beck on walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk

