

LOCAL PARTNERS IN STIRLING PLEDGE TO RAISE ASPIRATIONS OF CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

#AJobForEverybody



"The benefits of employing a care experienced person or someone with Additional Support Needs are huge not just for the young person who is trying to get into work but for staff, teams, managers, businesses and communities as a whole. These are young people who have talents, strengths, interests and valuable skills that are often overlooked because they may also have a physical difference, autism, poor emotional wellbeing or have a background of being in care. Everyone has support needs but it is our skills and talents that make us who we are. By making small adjustments to the workplace people can overcome challenges and go on to be highly employable.



Stirling Council Care Experienced Virtual Head Team are working together with partners to provide opportunities for identified care experienced young people who are still at school but who need to have the right vocational experiences, in a supportive environment, to help them to become work ready. Raising aspirations of our young people and increasing their self-belief is crucial to increasing youth employment. Challenging assumptions about additional support needs and the stigma attached to young people experiencing care is also a key benefit. Local employers report positive impacts not just for young people but for the workers too where improved morale, job satisfaction and attendance have all been noted. Through providing opportunities like this, we are overcoming recruitment issues - it is hoped that many of these young people are able to move into modern apprenticeships and sustained employment within Stirling.

Our research tells us we need to raise aspirations earlier in a young person's life and with help from DYW Forth Valley, we are teaming up with organisations such as Museums Galleries Scotland and The Smith Art Gallery and Museum to deliver learning opportunities for primary aged learners from vulnerable groups who might not ordinarily have access to the Arts and Cultural sector. The benefits for the existing workforce, overcoming misconceptions and encouraging chances to mentor someone who needs a bit of support to bring out their talents, are a rewarding way of improving job satisfaction, staff morale and celebrating diversity in the workplace."

LAURA FOWLER, CARE EXPERIENCED VIRTUAL HEAD TEAM, STIRLING

"Museums Galleries Scotland and The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum are delighted to be working in partnership with DYW Forth Valley and the Stirling Council Care Experienced Virtual Head Team. By providing the opportunity for care experienced young people to learn about the variety of roles available in heritage and the transferable skills that are required to do these jobs, we hope to inspire a more inclusive workforce in the future, one that accurately reflects our society."

MARKUS OFFER, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES SCOTLAND



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