

ENGAGING WITH EMPLOYERS IN WEST CHESHIRE

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Over 40 Cheshire employers came together recently at Shell Global Solutions UK headquarters at Shell Technology Centre Thornton to hear about new developments in learning for 14-19 year olds.

The event was held to brief employers about the benefits of engaging with learners, particularly via work experience programmes.

Attendees heard how education is becoming increasingly responsive to the needs of business and how improved links between business and education can generate benefits for all – particularly through the Apprenticeship programme.

Organised by a partnership of local organisations including West Cheshire College, TTE Training, YMCA Training, Career Steps, Building Young People's Potential (BYPP), Scientiam Limited, SDA Training, In Training, Education Business Plus, Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the event also incorporated contributions from local employers participating in the 14-19 development programmes. These included Shell UK, Hargreaves and Woods Accountants, Chez Jules, and The Spinney Day Nursery.

Shell Global Solutions external affairs' Joanne Shannon spoke enthusiastically about the company's involvement. "The event was a great forum for employers to hear first hand about the 14-19 development programme and the benefits it provides to both businesses and students alike," she said. "For example, our involvement with the TTE Apprenticeship scheme has helped to fill our recruitment gaps by increasing the skill pool in science and engineering.

“Shell provides an array of work experience placements for local young people ranging from laboratory work to engine vehicle testing and visual media work such as photography and video making. Investing this knowledge back into the community is an important part of our social investment programme and helps us to make a positive contribution to the local area.”

Liz Davis, Area Director for the LSC in Cheshire and Warrington concluded, “Young people in West Cheshire face a number of challenges and opportunities. These require flexible and innovative approaches to enable the next generation to acquire the skills and knowledge to maximise their contribution to the local economy. I am delighted that so many local companies were represented at the event and am impressed with their willingness to engage with schools and learners.”

Ends

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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