

# Work Experience Newsletter 2017

## Placements in 2017

The councils have provided 39 work experience placements for students since January 2017 working in various teams including: Leisure, Policy and Partnerships, Economic Development, Environmental Health and Protection, Licensing (Capita), Housing Development, Legal, The Beacon and Cornerstone Arts Centre.

- 36 students
- two young people through Job Centre Plus
- one undergraduate on a long term paid placement
- 61 per cent female and 31 per cent male
- 100 per cent of students enjoyed their placement and would recommend it

## Our first paid placement in Leisure

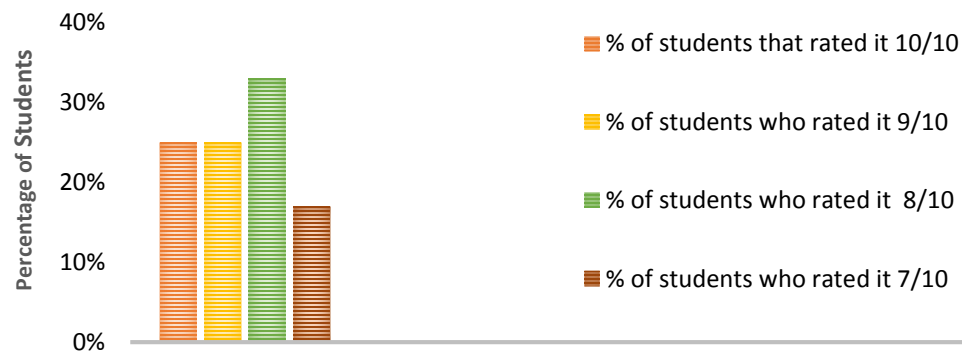
My name is Aled Newton, I'm studying Sport Development and Coaching Sciences at Bournemouth university which requires a placement during the third year of the course. I managed to secure a placement in the leisure team at the South and Vale District Councils. During the first month, I have been given an insight as to what every individual does in the team within facilities and participation. I have thoroughly enjoyed assisting the participation team in the GO Active Gold project – a project aimed at increasing participation in adults over 60 in rural villages.



Being involved in the project has enabled me to apply skills learnt in various units during my time at university within a working environment. The placement year will give me crucial experience within the sporting sector with the aim of increasing employment opportunities in the near future.

“As a result I have now been given my own villages in the South and Vale for the GO Active Gold project”.

## THE STUDENTS WERE ASKED: ON A SCALE OF 1-10 HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR PLACEMENT?



**“I understand now that there is a huge demand for housing so they have to be built!”**



My experience with the Housing Development team has been very interesting. I read through comments about the new garden town development in Didcot. I went to a meeting with Mark about using excess heat to heat up other buildings and how this could be used as part of the garden town project.

**Harry, Faringdon Community College**

I also met with the Housing needs team to find out about their work. I found working in an office very different from school because there is always someone talking or phones ringing. My favourite bit was looking at the plans for the new garden town as it is very exciting, particularly how they are exploring new technology like the driverless vehicles to connect to the science centres in Science Vale. I enjoyed going out to look at the new sites because I learnt about social housing. I have learnt so much about what the council does as in my village people don't like all the new housing but I understand now that there is a huge demand for housing so they have to be built! I also understand about social and affordable housing and how people get on the housing register.

### **Policy and Partnerships**

I liked all of my placement equally and learnt what it is like to work in an office.

**Flynn, Kingfisher School**

### **Leisure team**

I particularly enjoyed playing walking football and had a great experience working with the team.

**Lewis, St Birinus School**

### **“I learnt about voting in Policy and Partnerships”**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work experience with the team and enjoyed talking with the staff and finding out what they all do. I learnt that there are a lot of jobs in the council that I haven't heard of before. Thanks to the staff I developed my confidence as I had to talk to new people. I did some research to find out statistics about why low numbers of young people vote in elections to help Matt (Democratic Services and Elections) and Karen, young people's co-ordinator prepare for sixth form assemblies to encourage young people to register and vote, prior to the county and general elections. I went to Didcot Girls school to help with a presentation about the services the council provides.

**Yigit, Fitzharrys School**

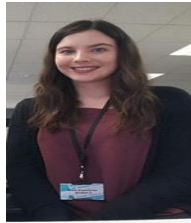
### **“The team help the public deal with environmental issues”**

I very much enjoyed taking part in the work experience with the team. I was out of the office a lot with officers accompanying them on food inspections and visits to help members of the public deal with vermin issues and learning about air pollution. I found everything fascinating and I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn about it from such a lovely team. Every aspect was well covered.

**Jasmine, Didcot Girls School**

### **“I liked working in an office”**

I enjoyed my week of work experience in the Economic Development and Communications team who were very welcoming.



It has been interesting to use word press, mail chimp, edit websites and newsletters and write articles. I liked the atmosphere of working in an open office as I would now like to work in one. I have gained lots of experience of different websites and programmes as well as work life in an office.

**Megan, Abingdon and Witney College**

### **“I want to be a lawyer”**

I've really enjoyed my taking part in my work experience with the legal team, they have been so welcoming and supportive.

**Autumn, Didcot Girls**

### **“I particularly enjoyed passing the taxi driver knowledge test”**

Thank you for all the effort the Licensing team (Capita) put in to spend time with me. It was a worthwhile experience that I will remember for a long time. I enjoyed going out with Andy and Richard doing the premises licensing, but also working with the rest of the team to help renew driver plates and other processes such as enforcement including sitting in on interviews.

**Edward, King Alfred's Academy**

### **“I loved working at Cornerstone”**

I did my work experience at Cornerstone and had a great time working with the team. I had a chance to work in everywhere including the café, which I really enjoyed. The team were very helpful and gave me lots of information.

**Saffron, Wallingford School**

### **“I got a job”!**

I had an amazing time at the Beacon helping the team set up rooms and working in the café, which I loved. At the end of the two weeks Natalie was offered a job in the café on Saturday mornings.

**Natalie, King Alfred's Academy**

## **“On my first day I went to a very exciting meeting about autonomous coaches”, Jacob, King Alfred’s Academy**

I had very little idea about what the council were doing within my community and this week has given me a really good insight. I chose to work with communications team as I want to be a journalist. On my first day I went to a very exciting meeting about autonomous coaches which could hopefully be seen in Milton Park as part of the Garden Town project. I got to monitor the council’s social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter and kept a record of the posts. I learnt that people feel strongly about their bins! I learnt about press releases and how they are written, which gave me a good insight into being a journalist. I got to write a press notice about the new grants scheme, with the help of the team. I learnt about completing tasks to meet deadlines.



## **“There are a lot of jobs in the council that I hadn’t heard of before”, Alice, Abingdon and Witney College**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work experience at the Policy and Partnerships team. I went in to help with a presentation at a school and meeting the team to find out about their interesting jobs.

## **Job Centre update**

Two placements have taken place at The Beacon and one person has been employed.

We enjoyed having Jaylan in the leisure team as he fitted in well. He had a keen interest in the leisure industry as he is taking a sports development course at Henley College.

**Ashley, Participation Team**

## **Want a career in the Arts?**

### **What we can offer at Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot**

- Connections Youth Performance Project (14-19) - Feb half term, evenings and weekends
- Work experience (year 10's) – working with all staff at Cornerstone including the box office and coffee shop
- Summer holidays/half terms 16+ theatre related work experience - assisting with workshops and planning projects
- Contact 07827 081818 or email [karen.tolley@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:karen.tolley@southandvale.gov.uk)

The work done by Emily was something we have needed for some time but have struggled to find the opportunity to complete. Emily’s background as a third year undergraduate made her the perfect person to do this and her work will help us immensely.

**Mark, Housing Development**