

Leicester  
Employment  
Hub

# Celebrating success



The Leicestershire Employment Hub is an ESF Funded project which was established in 2018 to help small to medium sized businesses in Leicester and Leicestershire with free and impartial recruitment support.

Since 2018 the project has been operating through a partnership including Leicester City Council (the accountable body), Leicester College, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Loughborough College, Stevenson College, Loughborough College, Leicestershire Education Business Company and

The University of Leicester. In 2020 the partnership changed to include Leicestershire County Council, De Montfort University, The Prince's Trust and Futures for Business.

The offer to employers includes a team of business support advisers to provide one-to-one recruitment

support giving access to job ready candidates, including advice on employing ex-offenders, people with disabilities and those furthest from the labour market.

This brochure highlights the project's achievements and showcases some of the employers and individuals supported.



Prince's Trust



## Key statistics

800

employers  
engaged  
with  
over **60** months

520

employers  
eligible for  
European Social  
Fund  
(ESF)  
support

650

jobs and opportunities created

450  
new  
local jobs

150  
new  
apprenticeships

50  
existing  
employees  
upskilled

## People

2,500 candidate registrations

## Grants

Leicester Jobs Fund

£180k 82 employers

82 apprenticeships created

Kickstart Extension

£260k 50 employers

68 Kickstart placements





## Kickstart



Mahendra Patel

Post-covid many people were displaced from their jobs and others found themselves further removed from the labour market.

In response the Government launched the National Kickstart Programme in Autumn 2020, which aimed to support 16-24-year-olds back to work, incentivising employers with full salary and training costs for six months.

Local authorities created placements across several departments including. Business administration, marketing, video production, teaching support, manual operatives, craft gardeners, outdoor rangers, trainee roadworkers.

**63**  
placements at  
Leicester City Council  
and Leicestershire County  
Council

**50%**  
retained into employment

**14**  
SME placements

### Extended contract at HQ Recording



Luke Petterson L, Hubert Kotlicki R

*"I've enjoyed working with all the staff here and am learning lots of new skills with good support of everybody and it's given me the opportunity to work in an industry that I have trained in"*

Hubert Kotlicki

HQ Recording approached Leicester Employment Hub to enable them to support the extension of a contract for a Kickstart employee - Hubert Kotlicki who has ADHD. After completing a degree in Media Production, Hubert was unemployed for a period and became very anxious before taking up a government Kickstart role with HQ Recording, as Trainee Videographer. This was a great opportunity to put all his theoretical learning into practice.

*"It's immensely satisfying that HQ have afforded Hubert a great opportunity to flourish, particularly given his condition with ADHD. The combination of their desire to support vulnerable individuals, and to offer paid work placements has resulted in a genuine success story for Hubert, who is now self-employed ... a great success for everyone concerned"*

Mahendra Patel

# Apprenticeship Levy



Alpa Chauhan

In 2020 we began facilitating the use of Leicester City Council's apprenticeship levy to businesses in the health and social care sector to help with the skills and recruitment gap. This has recently been expanded to include the childcare sector.

£1,010,500

levy amount pledged

58

businesses supported

218

staff accessing funding

Wide-ranging skills standards are funded by the levy, from Adult Carer Level 2/3 to Children, Young People and Families Manager Level 5.

We're also proud to have worked with ASDA since 2020 to facilitate the transfer of apprenticeship levy to SMEs across Leicester and Leicestershire.

£652,720

levy amount pledged

39

employers supported

100

staff accessing funding

## Kettle Windows – growing new talent in a skills shortage area with the ASDA levy



*"I've found the apprenticeship route very good as it focuses on my learning and improves your skills every day"*

Jack,  
apprentice window fitter

As well as supporting Kettle Windows in applying for the ASDA levy to train apprentices, the employment hub team helped to promote their vacancies, as so often those looking for a practical-based course haven't considered window fitting as an option.

*"This is such a great example of how the ASDA Levy is really supporting SME's within Leicester and Leicestershire, the levy is being used to overcome skills shortages as well as give opportunities to young talent"*

Alpa Chauhan,  
Senior Economic Regeneration Officer

# Onsite Construction Hub



Richard Thorpe

A recruitment solution based on employer feedback, to provide local construction employers with a pool of site-ready individuals. It delivers a tailored training programme at our purpose-designed Ashton Green construction training site.



Individuals complete site health and safety training, gaining a CSCS card, and are matched to suitable opportunities for a work trial or onsite work experience with a recruiting employer.

**557**  
CSCS cards gained

**354**  
work trials completed

**261**  
gained sustained employment



## Onsite experience gave Daniel a start in the industry



*“From the bottom of my heart it’s given me the best opportunity that I could ever have asked for”*

Daniel Skelly, employed as a trainee joiner by retail display manufacturers Thomson Hayes.



Read the full case study on [citb.co.uk](https://citb.co.uk)





40  
employer sponsors =  
£32,000  
costs covered  
800  
apprentice graduates



The annual apprentice's graduation ceremony was first delivered as an event in June 2015 following a grant from the Association of Colleges.



Rob Turnell



Sandra May's Hair Studio Team with Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Susan Barton

These ceremonies enable talented apprentices and committed employers to receive the recognition they richly deserve, driving up quality and encouraging others to get involved. The events are widely praised and greatly valued by family members and employers who attend.

Salon owner Sandra Potts has supported the graduation since it started in 2015.

During this time her staff have attended almost every ceremony to graduate at levels 2, 3 and 4.

This year Millie Wood-Songhurst graduated her level 2 in hairdressing and was awarded Apprentice of the Year.

#### Event attendee feedback

"The whole event had a 'feel good' factor, great to emphasise the personal stories of people"

"I really felt like I'd achieved something and having my family there to experience it with me was great"

"When I walked on stage and met the Lord Mayor I felt that the hard work paid off"

# Jobs fairs



Louise Cheshire

In 2023 the Leicester Employment Hub arranged a series of jobs fairs in community locations around the city, to give local residents the best opportunity for meeting recruiting employers face to face.

## New Parks February 2023

250  
job seekers

13  
partners

17  
employers

“This was one of the busiest events we have attended and it was highly productive for us”

Leicester Adult Education Service

“This was a good event and we have come away with a list of potential candidates for our jobs”

Arriva Buses



## Northwest Leicester at Dock

500  
job seekers

13  
partners

28  
employers

94%  
satisfaction

“Today’s event was EXCEPTIONAL!!! I have been going to Jobs Fairs for over 10 years and by far, this has been the BEST!! Both in terms of the numbers of Jobseekers through the door and also the number of learners that were interested in [our] courses”

Leicester College

“Application forms completed for 100”

Care 4U Ltd

“Amazing set up and event. Spoke to so many people!”

Driving Talent







## City Centre Haymarket Shopping Centre June 2023

400  
attended

13  
partners

25  
employers

“The Haymarket jobs fair was organized as a response to hospitality and retail sectors discussing the issues around recruitment. The Haymarket jobs fair had a great turnout of individuals looking for work and once again emphasized our key partnership work with DWP supporting employers whilst making a positive impact on local communities”

Shelley Drew – Senior Economic  
Regeneration Officer

“The event was very positive and very well received. I had a few tenants ‘buzzing’ in the couple of days that followed due to the volume of interest in their vacancies!”

Haymarket Shopping Centre



## Eyres Monsell Community Centre October 2023

77  
people attended -  
93% satisfaction rate

17  
partners and employers

“Really high level of engagement, great location, great targeted event for a small community”

Inspired to Care

“Great reception and turnout”

Inspired to Care

“We were late attendees, so not expecting us, but extremely accommodating, and have arranged some amazing opportunities”

Sofology



## Other events to promote employability

Social care careers  
experience event  
for 16-18s

Aiming to raise  
the perceptions of  
careers within social  
care, attract people  
from outside the  
sector to consider  
a career in care,  
and provide an  
opportunity for local  
providers to recruit  
new staff.

280  
attendees

27  
local employers including  
BUPA,  
Vista,  
Prime Life,  
Hales Home Care,  
Adaptus Cares,  
Rushcliffe Care,  
Sevacare,  
Select Care Services,  
Home Instead Hinckley,  
Bosworth Care

“This event is an ideal  
opportunity to meet with  
experienced professionals  
who will provide an insight into  
working in the care sector”

Councillor Richard Blunt, Cabinet  
Member for Adult Social Care,  
Leicestershire County Council





Hub 100  
recruitment events  
Matching jobseekers  
to job vacancies and  
offering face-to-face  
interviews for jobs  
and apprenticeships.

20  
events all advertising  
100 vacancies

400+  
attendees

32.5%  
gained employment



## ALMOSTAKBAL event for refugees



ALMOSTAKBAL  
(‘Future’ in classic  
Arabic) was an event  
run by Leicester  
Employment Hub and  
the STAR AMAL team,  
aimed at helping  
Syrian refugees into  
employment.

The focus was on English language skills, employability skills, voluntary work and interactions with employers. Services on offer on the day included Leicester Adult Education for ESOL and pre-employment courses, Voluntary Action Leicestershire for voluntary opportunities and our links with employers in growth employment sectors including construction and care.



## Future Support



*“We’re here and ready to support any business that is looking for growth through recruitment. We have lots of experience to offer employers and we can give you access to job ready applicants through our extensive network of partners”*

Tracey Waterfield, Employment Hub Manager

With the end of the European funding, we are currently going through a major shift in the business support landscape. However, Leicester Employment Hub will continue to support businesses with recruitment thanks to funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

We continue to work with employers across Leicester to offer free and impartial support to aid the recruitment of all new entry level jobs and apprenticeships. We also explain how government funding can be accessed to upskill your existing staff and bring on board new talent through apprenticeship training.

To access support,  
visit our website



[leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk](https://leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk)

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