## **EMPLOYERS – WE NEED YOU!**



There are a range of education pathways that help support young people into work or to gain experience, including:

- Short-term Work Experience
- Supported Internships
- Traineeships
- Apprenticeships
- & soon... T-Levels

The success of each programme is dependent on links to a committed and understanding employer... and we need more of these in Warrington!

Quality work experience and learning in a vocational setting has been shown to benefit all young people, but especially those groups that traditionally suffer from education and employment inequalities, including young people living in poverty or in care.

But only <u>Supported Internships</u> were designed specifically to help young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) who "want to move into employment and need extra support to do so."

- Available to young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan
- Based primarily at an employer, with support from the Education Provider
- Equips the individual with the skills for work, through learning in the workplace
- Wherever possible, they support the young person to progress into paid employment
- Unpaid, and lasts for a minimum of six months, but often one full academic year
- Includes vocational and functional qualifications delivered by the Education Provider

Warrington Borough Council oversee Supported Internships; providing support and guidance to students, families, employers and education partners.

This support includes leading a Forum which regularly brings together all partners and stakeholders.

There are 4 education providers based locally that deliver Supported Internships in Warrington, as well as other pathways to employment that include work trials and/or work experience:

- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- Willow Green Trust
- Expanse Learning
- Pettypool Vocational College

Each provider has their own unique selling points, and the Council is completely impartial.

Supported Internships work best when a person's aspirations and skills are matched to an employer.

So access to a variety of roles within diverse organisations and sectors is incredibly important.

Current employers say: "The internship programme is an ideal way for employers and young people to work together towards full-time employment. We are proud to be involved in the process."

Please pledge your organisations commitment to providing a Supported Internship placement, or offering another meaningful vocational experience to a local young person. It can make a massive difference!

Neil Woodward, SEND Employer Engagement Coordinator, Warrington Borough Council