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Knowsley Supported Employment

E-NEWSLETTER

Empower UPDATE

Knowsley's Empower Job Carving Programme is going from strength to strength and 10 local businesses and organisations are taking advantage of the benefits job carving brings.

In September 2018, Knowsley Council developed the Empower Job Carving Programme in partnership with All Saints Catholic High School, Eastcroft Park Primary School and the First Ark Group to create meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for Knowsley residents with a learning difficulty and/or disability.

Five candidates have completed work placements and successfully moved into paid employment - Liam works as a Print Room Assistant at All Saints Catholic High School, Daryl is a Grounds' Maintenance Assistant at Eastcroft Park Primary School, David is a Post and Provisions Assistant at First Ark, Anthony is an Administration Assistant at Caring Connections and Michael is a Grounds' Maintenance Assistant at St Joseph the Worker Catholic School.

A further five organisations have also created job carved positions - three have already started as placements and the rest will start over the coming weeks.



Liam from All Saints Catholic High School said:

"Having a job is helping me to become more independent - I can now do the majority of the jobs in the print room without any assistance. This frees up Bill's (Print Room Manager) time to focus on his creative work. I enjoy my job as I meet and help a lot of different people - I really enjoy being part of the All Saint's family."

Inclusive Recruitment and Business Support

Emma Hart, a Business Support Assistant at Knowsley Council, has been supporting the Empower Job Carving Programme since it started in September 2018. Emma contributes to the programme's inclusive recruitment approach by developing all of the job and placement specifications in Easy Read. Easy Read makes the information more accessible for people with learning difficulties and or disabilities by breaking text down into short sentences and using images to accompany text where possible.

Emma said: ***"It is a pleasure to support the Empower Job Carving Programme by producing the job/placement specifications in easy read and I really enjoy contributing to the programme in this way. It is great every time Sue asks me to do another specification in easy read as I know that this will help another person with a learning difficulty and/or disability gain employment."***

As well as producing job specifications in Easy Read, the council also provides a range of support to organisations including free disability awareness training for colleagues, a free analysis of tasks within the work place and job coaching support.



Congratulations Anthony

One of the first participants on the Knowsley Supported Internship programme and Knowsley Empower Job Carving programme is celebrating after being offered a permanent position doing a job he loves.

Anthony (Ant) Cunningham, was one of the first people to join the Supported Internship programme when it was launched in 2016, supporting young adults (aged 19-25 years) with a learning difficulty and / or disability into employment.

Ant's work experience was in Knowsley Council's Fleet Services Department as a Fleet Administrator. Ant developed strong teamwork skills, employability skills, communication skills as well as his confidence too – so much so that when the internship finished, Ant was offered a paid position within the council.

Thanks to the invaluable experience gained through the programme, Ant has now secured permanent employment as an Administration Assistant at Caring Connections, which was created through the concept of job carving.

As part of the Empower programme, Ant did some work experience at Caring Connections to try out the role to make sure that it was right for him. This also allowed Caring Connections to assess and review the job carved role to ensure that it contributed to their business needs.

Paul Growney, CEO of Caring Connections, said: ***"It's been a really positive experience being involved with the job carving programme and we are really happy to have Ant come on board. Ant completed a work experience placement here at Caring Connections and gelled with the team immediately and has already been an excellent addition to the workforce. The support provided by the council is excellent and I would highly recommend other businesses to get involved with the programme."***

For further information please contact

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Knowsley Council