

Career Network Event for Care Experienced Young People 1st June 2023

The *Housing Project Lancashire* with the support of partners, employers, local colleges and higher education institutions were able to support a *Career Network Event for Care Experienced Young People* from across Lancashire. The event, which had been led and designed by young people from the Housing Project, provided an opportunity to gain insights into the specific support needs of young care experienced people as they considered their potential future education, employment and career options.

Seventy-one young people were recorded as attending the event, many with their personal advisors or support workers. As part of the event, participants including the attending professional staff were invited on leaving to share any brief insights and comments about the event with the aim of gaining some understanding of:

- attending and participating in the event
- its potential impact
- and to identify any enhancements that might be useful when planning future events.

This short 'Vox Pop' report shares some indication and examples of the comments made and which have been clustered to illustrate the benefits of attending, the supportive atmosphere and the initial direct impact that attending the event had for some participants.

Given the consistency and content of the responses made, there is an overall sense that the event was very successful in presenting and connecting young people with a wide range of potential opportunities, provided direct advice and information which helped some participants with the awareness and encouragement to take next steps in pursuing some of the opportunities available. The focus, design, organisation and orientation of the event was perceived as being positive and helpful in responding, in some way at least, in meeting the particular needs that young care experienced people in Lancashire have as they consider their future options. The event provided a good design to inform future similar developments.

How Did I Find the Event?

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

The majority of comments received from both participants and professionals focused on the benefits of the event in terms of the platform it provided for those attending to gain insights into the wide range of opportunities available, receiving information, asking questions receiving helpful explanations and making connections.

"Good opportunity to see what's out there"

"Lots of good information about courses and jobs"

"AMAZING, VERY HELPFUL AND USEFUL"

"From a professional point of view I feel there was loads of information and opportunities which was positive".

"OPENING NEW OPPORTUNITIES, VERY USEFUL"

"ALL VERY HELPFUL"

"VERY INFORMATIVE AND LOTS OF OPTIONS"

"EXCITING, GREAT RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES"

"GOOD FOR WORK IDEAS"

How Did I Find the Event?

SUPPORTIVE & FRIENDLY

A number of participants commented on the atmosphere, tone and supportive nature of the event. This enabled a sense of enjoyment, comfort in being able to speak and meet new people. The availability of refreshments was appreciated.

"Friendly and kind"

"I had lovely chats"

"GREAT. CHATTING AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE"

"FUN!"

"FREE FOOD!!"

"Really enjoyed meeting good people"

How Did I Find the Event?

IMPACTFUL & INSPIRING

Several of the young people attending noted how attending the event had given them some confidence and stimulated them in thinking about their potential futures. Several comments were also received from some of the professionals attending who observed how the event and content shared during the event had inspired them.

"It did inspire me to look into work within health and social care"

"Helpful for my future."

"THIS EVENT HAS HELPED ME TAKE THE LEAP I NEEDED NOT ONLY FOR A JOB BUT HELPED WITH MY ANXIETY, THANK YOU!"

"HEARING THE STORIES OF OTHERS WAS GREAT"

"GREAT YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTIONS"

"Fantastic event which helped employers understand the potential of our young people"

How Did I Find the Event?

POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS

Some comments were received about potential enhancements that might be considered when running similar events. These included providing some wider input, more focus on specific career areas and more time to maximise attendance and participation. Overall organisation and content of the event was seen largely seen as effective.

"More provision for creative studies/careers"

"More colleges, not just mainstream"

"SO MUCH TO SEE BUT NOT ENOUGH TIME"

"JUST MORE OPPORTUNITIES"

"EVENT TO RUN OVER SEVERAL DAYS"

"more on childcare"

"more carpentry opportunities"