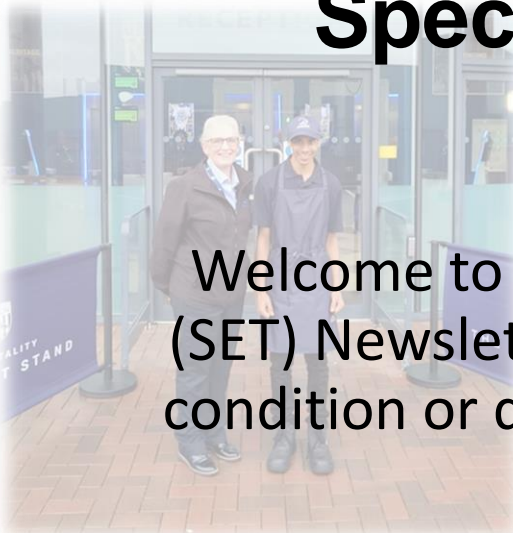




Specialist Employment Team Newsletter Autumn 2024



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Specialist Employment Team's (SET) Newsletter. SET offer support to Sandwell residents with a health condition or disability, who are looking for employment and offer a free service to employers.



Whether you are a job seeker, a referral organisation or an employer, we hope you will find the 'good news' stories to be of interest and inspiring.



#EmploymentForAll

Job Start – Job Start – Job Start – Job Start

Congratulations to **Jai** who has started work with **West Bromwich Albion's** catering team.

As a supporter of West Bromwich Albion, and someone who is not afraid of rolling his sleeves up and getting stuck in, this opportunity was the perfect way for him to kick off his working life, contributing to the smooth running of match days at The Hawthorns.

WBA Catering Manager Lisa Jones (in picture with Jai), describes Jai as “motivated, hardworking and reliable” and “he has fitted into the team really well.”

Jai's mum is very proud of his progress, saying: “Jai puts his heart and soul into his work and really enjoys working at Albion. Thank you to Lisa and the team for supporting him and giving him the opportunity to demonstrate and develop his skills.”

We look forward to continued partnership working with WBA, who have been fantastic throughout, embracing inclusive recruitment and fostering a nurturing environment for members of staff.



Site Visit – Site Visit – Site Visit – Site Visit



Thank you to **Vinci** and **O'Neill & Brennan** for hosting such a brilliant and informative 'construction site' visit.

For young people leaving school and college, especially those with SEN, site visits and work tasters are so important to help inform their career choices and aspirations. Specialist Employment Team participants James and Bailey (pictured far left) and Theo were all motivated by the session and looking forward to gaining further experience.

Chloe a Director at O'Neil & Brennan said of the visit:

"We need more young people coming into construction and this gives people real life experience where they can decide if construction is something they want to be involved in. Whilst classroom learning is important, there's nothing like a hands on walkaround to see things come to life."

Job Start – Job Start – Job Start – Job Start

Congratulations to Darren who has started a new job, working as a cleaner for **Greets Green Community Enterprises**.

It was a case of perfect timing; CEO Nick was in the process of recruiting a cleaner when he was contacted by an Employment Broker from our team.

Jobseeker Darren, who has lots of relevant skills and experience, was introduced to Nick and we agreed a work trial. Work trials are a very good way of allowing a person to demonstrate their capabilities.

“Darren's recruitment was very simple. The team around Darren is very supportive and informative throughout the whole process.”

Darren has settled into our Wood Lane family, and we are loving his sense of humour.”

Nick Bayliss, CEO Greets Green Community Enterprises





Thank to Jon and the team at **CMT Engineering** in Cradley Heath, who are currently providing work tasters to our LSE (Local Supported Employment) job seekers.

Gaining exposure to different work environments is important for young job seekers, especially those with limited work experience.

Dylan (pictured) demonstrated excellent attention to detail, picked up the work quickly and enjoyed the experience.

In 'supported employment' we use 'place and train' for our jobseekers. This means that vocational learning best takes place in a real work setting.

Local Supported Employment Initiative

The Specialist Employment Team have grant funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver the Local Supported Employment Initiative.

The Local Supported Employment Initiative helps adults with *learning disabilities* and *autism* move into and sustain employment.

The Local Supported Employment Initiative started in November 2022 and we will be supporting up to 80 jobseekers.

So far, 16 customers have started work or have a job offer and are waiting to start work.

12 customers who have been in work for more than 6 months, 11 have sustained their job for 26 weeks

22 LSE customers are still looking for paid employment.

We've had great feedback from both customers we have supported on the LSE programme and employers.



Local Supported Employment Initiative



If you are looking for paid work, have a learning disability or autism and live Sandwell, we may be able to help you find a job. Your job coach will talk to you about the type of job you want and together you will plan how to get your job. Your job coach will contact employers on your behalf and talk to them about jobs for you. They will meet with you regularly and support you in the workplace to help you learn your job.

You can apply for this support if you:

- Want a paid job
- Have a learning disability, autism or both
- Live in Sandwell
- Are aged 18+
- Are not on any other employment support programmes.
- Understand the benefits of participating in the initiative to find and sustain paid work.
- Are known to Adult Social Care or known to Sandwell Council with the same level of support as someone known to Adult Social Care.
- Are happy to complete an eligibility check which will be sent to Jobcentre Plus.

We cannot guarantee you will find a job whilst being supported by us, but we will explore lots of different opportunities including work tasters, work placements and work trials.

For more information:
Email: enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk
Telephone: 0121 569 5563

Grant funded by DWP



*think*Sandwell

Get in touch

Sandwell Council's Local Supported
Employment Initiative

Email: Enquiries_Recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk

Go to: www.sandwell.gov.uk/thinksandwell



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Call: 0121 569 5981 or 569 5563

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