Employment & Skills Team

Jane Kaur-Gill

Walsall works

Walsall Council

IMPROVE outcomes and customer experience

IMPROVE employee satisfaction and engagement

IMPROVE service efficiency and performance

The Service

Walsall works

- Service focus is to achieve Economic Growth for all people, communities and businesses, through collaborative working on all aspects of employment and skills
- Strategic objective is to improve productivity and skills and to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Service established using ring fenced funding to launch a programme to address high youth unemployment, and Walsall Works was designed and launched in 2012
- Structure is now made up of a Manager, 6 Officers, 17 Advisors and 3 Regeneration Assistants, having assumed a transfer of 10 staff from the Childrens IAG service.
- Focus on key groups through externally funded programmes ie long term unemployed and vulnerable young people, whilst also supporting employers with recruitment

The Challenge

Walsall has a working age population (16-64 year olds) of 174,300. The annual population survey shows approximately 16,900 (9%) of the adult population have no qualifications (regional average 8.3%). 27% hold a NVQ Level 4 (regional average 37%)

The economic consequences of the pandemic has not fallen equally on all communities, it has exposed existing vulnerabilities and inequalities of our residents. The onset of the pandemic has also seen unemployment climb to the levels that were not seen during the 2008 recession. Currently there are 12,640 claimants, of which:

- 2,555 claimants are aged 16-24
- 7,250 claimants are aged 25-49
- 2,840 claimants are aged 50+

7,100 people were on furlough in July 2021. There are major labour shortages in haulage, logistics, health and hospitality sectors.

The Support to Residents

Walsall works

The team deliver support through a number of funded programmes which target key groups:

Walsall works	• Council funded initiative designed to support local people of working age • Supports residents to improve employability, help to find jobs, apprenticeships and access training • Work with local employers to understand the demands of the local labour market
Black Country impact Walsall	• Impact is designed to support 16-29 year old who are NEET (not in education, employment of training) • Bespoke tailored service providing advice and guidance • Intensive 1 to 1 personalised support delivered by an Employment Advisor
KICKSTART SCHEME	• Registered employer gateway to bring forward 150 paid work placements • Work placements for 16- 24 year olds universal benefit claimants • Employers offer a minimum of 25 hours per week for a six month period
RESTART SCHEME	• Welfare to work contract to deliver employability support to working age residents of all ages who have been unemployed and claiming a universal benefit for 12-18 months • Support to tackle barriers that participants may have and to help them prepare and access employment
Education Business Partnership Walsall	• Careers guidance in schools and NEETs prevention work with vulnerable young people • Helping make young people of schools age to more empowered, employable and entrepreneurial • Brokering real business engagement and helping local economic development. • Provides a focus on self-employment

The Offer to Employers

Walsall works

Tailored Recruitment Service

Advertising vacancies, job-matching to clients, application sifting, shortlisting and interviewing

Work Placements

Work experience and paid placements from interested candidates that offers you a 'try before you recruit'

Apprenticeships

Access to employer incentives when recruiting local people into apprenticeships across all business sectors

Sector Work Academy

Pre-employment programmes with a guaranteed interview for interested local unemployed people

Training & Qualifications

Access to a full range of free employee training and industry specific certifications (eg. CSCS, SIA, DBS)

Skills for Workforce

Access to short courses for new employees and to meet your existing workforce training development needs

Expo and Virtual Events

Attendance to events hosted by the team to promote opportunities to local residents

Social Responsibility

Building robust relationships and links between business and local schools and communities

The Future

Walsall works

- Influence Adult Education Budget allocation valued at circa £10m for Walsall, to ensure close alignment to the labour market demands and employer skills needs.
- Utilisation of the apprenticeship funding and apprenticeship levy, internally and externally by employers and training providers.
- Tender into future commercial contracts for DWP welfare to work programmes, ie successor to Work and Health Programme and JETs schemes.
- One approved Community Renewal Funding (CRF) application valued at £519k for Works+ and one delivery partner in the BC 50+ Plus Partnership valued at £182k.
- Shared Prosperity Fund launch pending to support sustainment of ESF funded programmes, with potential to re-design the Councils employment and skills

The Performance

Walsall works

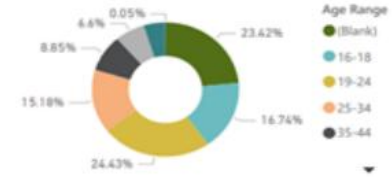
Walsall works

Overview

Clients

12469

Client Age Groups (%)



Client Gender (%)

Client Ethnicity (%)

Walsall Wards

Localities

East | North | South | West

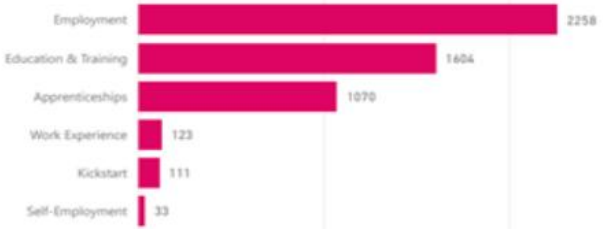
Social Housing Provider

Accord | whg

Client Aspirations

Client Disabilities

Outcomes



For more information, contact us

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