

Feedback from Apprentices and Development Leads, who attended the 2021 Local Government Apprentice of the Year event

2021 Apprentice of the Year Winner - Karla Overington, Business Administration Apprentice, West Sussex County Council. Level 3 Business Administration Apprentice

"I feel absolutely thrilled, delighted and honoured, to have been given the opportunity to represent Highways, Transport and Planning at such a well organised event. It was a fast paced, full on, interactive day, but it was great to meet new people and be provided with the opportunity to learn and develop. I was able to learn a lot about myself and what my key skills and strengths are, something which I will be looking to put into practice within my role."

Karla Overington's Manager, Chris Barrett, Business Manager, Business Assurance Group, West Sussex County Council

"Karla is absolutely thrilled to have won the Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2021. It is great to see Karla's enthusiasm and motivation as an apprentice acknowledged and rewarded. When Karla looks back on this event, I think she will come to recognise it as a catalyst in her personal development, and in developing her chosen career."

I know that Karla gained a tremendous amount from this year's event. She learned a lot about herself, enjoyed meeting a lot of likeminded people, moved out of her comfort zone and broadened her horizons. It is delightful to see the way this event has inspired Karla and I have no doubt it will have a lasting effect on the way she embraces the opportunities her apprenticeship comes to offer."

"In my view the event isn't just about the day itself or our apprentices attending in isolation. Managers are actively encouraged to engage and follow up after the event and this makes this event special. It is such a great opportunity for enthusing the wider team as well as motivating each of the apprentices who attended the event."

Charlotte Fuller, Trainee Health and Safety Advisor, West Suffolk Council Safety, health and Environment Technician Apprenticeship Level 3

"The local government apprentice of the year event brought together so many apprentices from all over the country and allowed us to not only work together as a team but also to learn from each other. It taught me how to communicate more effectively with others and build on the confidence you need to work in local government."

Anon (taken from event evaluation feedback form)

"I usually really don't enjoy things like this but I ended up really enjoying myself and I was surprised by how easily we all pulled together our knowledge and had fun with it."

Anon (taken from event evaluation feedback form)

"I have taken so much away with me from the day. It is so worth doing if you want to learn about yourself and challenge yourself."

Lisa Butterfill HR and Development Manager, East Midlands Councils (Development Lead)

"The apprenticeship challenge was a great opportunity to help support the apprentices as they immersed themselves in the challenges set. To see them grow in confidence and skill was very rewarding and it certainly raised the profile of how vital apprentices are within local government. It

is a great opportunity to learn in a practical way and I would encourage anyone interested in the development of others to take part in future events. Looking forward to next year!"

Lorna Wells, Principle HR Consultant, West Midlands Employers (Development Lead)

"I really enjoyed being a development lead, I felt privileged to get such a great insight into the future talent that is starting to grow within our authorities. I was really impressed by the confidence, knowledge and positive attitude displayed by all the apprentices."