



Charlotte Fuller, Health & Safety & Environment Technician, West Suffolk Council

My name is Charlotte and I work at West Suffolk Council. I have completed the Health, Safety and Environment apprenticeship Level 3. I joined West Suffolk in September 2019 and completed my apprenticeship in June 2021. I am now a Health and Safety Advisor in the Health and Safety team.



What made you apply for an apprenticeship role?

I knew I didn't want to go to university or college after A levels but that I wanted to start working and get a job. An apprenticeship allows me to earn and learn at the same time and on completion of my apprenticeship, I will have a recognised qualification that will lead onto so many other routes in my career.

How did you get onto the apprenticeship; did you have to do an interview?

Like all interviews, they are nerve-wracking but it is part of getting a job. Research into the job and the company is a key factor. The interviewers are not going to expect you to know everything about the job, but a small amount of knowledge is good.

How have you found the experience of being an apprentice in local government?

Being an apprentice in Local Government provides you with a whole range of opportunities and you learn a lot from the internal workings of each team across the Council.

How did you balance working and studying at the same time?

A lot of my work I completed on a day-to-day basis as I needed a portfolio for my qualification. I dedicated two afternoons a week to my written assignments and training to account for my 20% off the job.

What's your biggest achievement since becoming an apprentice?

Although I was very pleased to have passed my course with distinction, I feel one of the biggest achievements was being involved in West Suffolk Events and being on the event management team. It helped me build my knowledge and confidence that I have gained since starting my apprenticeship.

On reflection, what do you think are the benefits of an apprenticeship route?

It allows you to get the experience you need to progress and learn the knowledge of the job alongside it. The apprenticeship route is also good if you are not as confident in exam-based environments. Although this will depend on each apprenticeship, I only had one final exam and a presentation. The rest was all portfolio based.

Do you have any advice to offer anyone considering an apprenticeship role in local government?

An apprenticeship in Local Government allows you to grow, you will learn from all those working with you and the opportunities are endless. It is a great place to start your career. I hope to continue in health and safety and train to level 6 in the future.