

## **Nicole Stimson, Business Administration Apprenticeship, South Cambridgeshire District Council**



I joined the Communications Team at the Council in 2016, starting a Level 2 Business Administration Apprenticeship. Since then, I have completed a Level 3 Business Administration Apprenticeship and a Level 3 Team Leader / Supervisor Apprenticeship. I have progressed in my career during this time, first being appointed to a Website Content Officer role, and most recently, securing a Senior Websites Officer role.

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

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The positive experience that I have had has made me passionate about promoting how powerful apprenticeships can be. When I was at school, apprenticeships were never mentioned, it was always about going to school, doing A levels and going to university, which is great for people who want to do that.

### **What makes apprenticeships a good development route (journey) for your career?**

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The training and experience that I have gained has led me to where I am now. I am still at South Cambridgeshire District Council, working with the same team, but in December 2021 I was recruited into the role of Manager for the Website team. I am extremely proud of the journey I have taken and the progress I have made in my career. I wouldn't be where I am today without apprenticeships and the support given by both the education providers and my employer.

### **Why would you recommend an apprenticeship in local government to someone considering one?**

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For those that don't wish to take the university route, apprenticeships are a great alternative. I don't believe that I would have reached management level at my age if I had gone to university. I am a lot further ahead in my career than I would have been if I had taken an alternative route. I am still young, and there is plenty of time for me to consider a Higher Education, either through a university degree or a higher-level apprenticeship.