

CASE STUDY

Katie Harrison
Events Assistant Apprenticeship (Level 3)
West Suffolk Council



My Name is Katie Harrison, and I am an Events Assistant in the Economic Development team at West Suffolk Council, completing a level 3 Events Apprenticeship. I joined West Suffolk in November 2021 and I am due to complete my apprenticeship in January 2024.

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

Working in local government is a good way to get your foot stuck in the door to working life, with many different opportunities as it is a larger organisation. The council has many benefits too. One of the best things about West Suffolk is the team I get to work with, they are so supportive and provide me with the best opportunities to better myself. Someone is always there to help and offer advice when needed. The whole team are all so driven and all work well as a team to deliver what is needed. The team are also very appreciative that I need time to study in the working week and always support me where they can with my apprenticeship.

I never knew what path I wanted to take after completing my GCSE's, but I was recommended to complete an apprenticeship when I realised college really wasn't going to be for me. I started a Business Administration apprenticeship but came to realise this wasn't the industry I wanted to be in. After being involved with various events over the summer, I quickly learnt my love for it and knew this is what I wanted to pursue my career in. So, when the opportunity for an events apprenticeship in local government came up, I knew I had to apply and luckily, I was offered the job.

What does your typical day look like?

Working in Events can be very diverse and vary from day to day – no day is ever the same. The job role covers everything from social media and marketing to watching the event you've helped plan come to life. You get the opportunity to meet many different people both internally and externally – improving your social and communication skills. You also get the opportunity to visit local towns regularly, build relationships with local businesses and attend events.

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

I would 100% recommend an apprenticeship in local government to anyone considering one. It is a good way to earn and learn as you work towards your qualification. Try not to be overwhelmed by the idea of being part of a large organisation – you will be surprised at how quickly you will feel settled in. The opportunity doesn't come around every day so take it when you can! Every opportunity is something to learn from.