

Question C5 linking to C6 : WEST Evidence of Initiatives that find the appropriate mix of support by mainstream and specialist agencies

WEST specialises in recruitment and provides a professional service to Employers who offer employment or work experience to people with learning disabilities or are on the Autistic Spectrum.

WEST specialises in matching the right person in the right job and providing supported employment

We link closely with the schools and attend all transition events with a stand, information and support for students and parent/carers

We will also link with any career service linked to the customer, and Job centre plus, who assist with the welfare rights of the customer.

We provide better off calculations from our Welfare Rights service in Warwickshire

Our service Manager is Head of Transitions so our service is linked to all of the Education and Social care strategies, to support customers into supported employment.

We provide information to the SEND project

We currently have 4 job clubs running each week by WEST staff:

- 1, Rugby in the Library, using their services
- 2, Stratford in the Hub, building managed by Bromford
- 3, Warwick at the Emscote Centre, building managed by PAYP
- 4, Nuneaton, in our own Freeway Centre

We have a County Agreement with Community Education to provide our customers with English, Maths and IT training, this is to help prepare for apprenticeship application tests. The sessions take place at Pound lane training centre and Hatters space.

Our employability training is provided around the county by the outreach workers from Hereward College, we have a full range of vocational training designed to meet the employer's requirements. This has worked very well for several years. Hereward also provides independence skills which is crucial to enable the customer to work ready.

The training on offer locally by WEST to support the customer in gaining employment, mitigates the need to go out of county to college for several years

WEST provide travel training which again is key to going to work independently.

WEST manager meets regularly with the SW managers to ensure that all our work is linked together to support our customers.

We talk to other borough councils for work experience ie, N. Warks.

We are active members of BASE , British Association for Supported Employment, we host the regular regional meetings in Warwick.

All WEST staff are trained or being trained to the requirements of the BASE quality standard

We recently hosted our second Employer Conference, jointly with Coventry City Council. It was held at Network Rail with a full attendance of Employers giving very positive feedback , to speakers from the LEP, and National Apprenticeship, and Internship's initiatives. Awards were given to Employers who excelled in support to our customers by our local portfolio holder Cllr Jose Compton.

Last year we were awarded a joint award with Coventry City Council at the National Skills Show for our supported employment work.

WEST have co- written with Coventry City Council and BASE the performance indicators re disability in the workplace for the Health and Well Being Charter, currently being used nationally

To ensure our data is available and current WEST employment Officers now record and add data to Care First. A system we did not use last year. All of the Information is now available to the people group.

WEST also contributes to the People Group Performance reporting for Q2 and Q3