

Spotlight on Apprenticeships

Chippenham

An apprenticeship snapshot for Wiltshire

July 2019

This newsletter was produced by the Employment and Skill Service at Wiltshire Council to showcase employers, providers and the range of opportunities available through the apprenticeship route.

Apprenticeships in Wiltshire

Wiltshire saw 5720 apprenticeships started between August 2017 and July 2018.

The parliamentary constituency of Chippenham which includes the towns and villages of Corsham, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham accounted for 560 of these starts across all sectors and levels.



Starts for the first two quarters of this academic year (August to January) show a promising start with a total of 2880 starts recorded for Wiltshire; 370 of which were across the Chippenham constituency.

Data Source [FE Data Library](#)

Be Involved

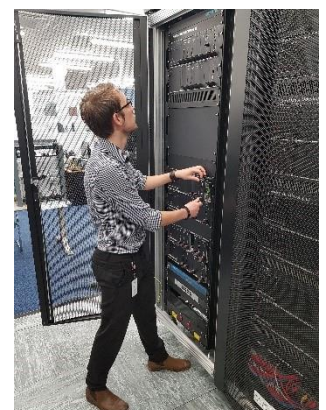


[Be Involved](#) is a Wiltshire initiative that enables employers to support the employability of young people and the future workforce. In creating a directory of organisations who pledge to work together around key areas across the county: supporting local schools and those with significant barriers to work, apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships.

Be Involved enables business to support the residents of Wiltshire as well as assisting local projects such as the [Enterprise Adviser Network](#) and [Building Bridges](#).

Meet an apprentice

We regularly feature [Apprentice Stories](#) on our website; meet Luke a Signalling Design Apprentice at Chippenham based Siemens [here](#).



National Apprenticeship Week 2020

National Apprenticeship Week is an annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships across England.



Apprenticeship employers use the opportunity to promote the success of their apprentices and highlight the huge benefits to other employers, of all sizes, who are thinking of taking on an apprentice.

Apprentices across the country will also be celebrated throughout the week, with engagement and events in schools and colleges. Many current and former apprentices will go back to school to tell their story, attracting the next generation of apprentices, so they too can fire up their future career.

#FACT

69% of employers say that employing apprentices improved staff retention. 65% of apprentices stay working for the company that trained them when they complete their apprenticeship.

Source: [National Apprenticeship Service](#)

Awards

The [Chippenham BID Business Awards](#) take place each year and is the largest B2B event in Chippenham. Celebrating the successes and achievements of local business. Could your Apprentice enter the 2020 awards?

Apprenticeship Reforms – What's new?

Apprenticeships have seen considerable change through the introduction of these reforms and the apprenticeship levy, a charge payable by employers with a wage bill greater than £3m; this money is then reinvested into apprenticeship training for businesses of all sizes.

Off the job training

The Education and Skills Funding Agency have published a guide on [how employers and training providers should meet the 20% off-the-job training requirement](#) for apprentices.

Support for care leavers

Care leavers can face additional financial barriers to undertaking an apprenticeship. From 1 August 2018 a £1,000 bursary was introduced for apprentices aged 16-24 who have been in the care of their Local Authority, to help ensure they are able to access apprenticeships.

Source: [ESFA](#)

Current vacancies in this area

Apprenticeship vacancies are advertised throughout the year by local employers such as Savers Health and Beauty, MJ Church, National Trust, Snapdragons Nursery and Platinum Motor Group. You can search for vacancies [here](#).

Below is a sample of live vacancies for this area

[Dutch Barton Dental Surgery -Dental Nurse](#)

[Greensquare Group – Carpenter](#)

[Bath ASU – Laboratory Technician](#)

An alternative to university!

Higher and Degree level apprenticeships are an area of rapid growth and offer a real alternative to university for applicants and not just for those that live in large cities such as London, Bristol and Birmingham. There are some great opportunities across Swindon and Wiltshire from businesses such as Arla Foods, Bew & Co, Hartham Park, Siemens and Zircon Software.

Applications for these programmes often open well in advance of the job starting, usually between October and March to start the following September. It is therefore important to sign up to the [Find an Apprenticeship](#) service website where you can opt in to receive alerts as vacancies are announced based on your criteria or location.

The National Apprenticeship Service offer support through their [vacancy snapshot](#) publication which highlights national opportunities

Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

The South West Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (SWAAN) is a group of employers, whose main aim is to engage new businesses to commit to apprenticeship delivery in the South West of England. The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network inspires and influences people to choose apprenticeships, as a route to create business and individual success across the country.

The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network is for businesses who have apprentices in their workforce regardless of size or industry.

Current and former apprentices can provide inspiration for the next generation by attending events and speaking at local schools; providing an insight into their day to day work roles.

To get involved in the regional network contact us or look at the website for more information [here](#)

Meet an apprentice

We regularly feature [Apprentice Stories](#) on our Work Wiltshire website; you can also learn about what it means to be an apprentice at Wiltshire Council [here](#).



Our offer to employers

The Employment and Skills Service with our colleagues at [Higher Futures](#) can support businesses of all sizes to develop an apprenticeship programme, help with recruitment and upskill existing employees through a series of training programmes and apprenticeship options, many funded through our extensive partnership network.

Our Work Wiltshire website is a one stop shop for all education, employment and skills information and support.

If you are an employer or an apprentice and would like to feature in future editions, contact us using the details below.

Work Wiltshire

Tel - 01225 756184

Web – workwiltshire.co.uk

Email - workwilts@wiltshire.gov.uk

Twitter - [@WorkWiltshire](https://twitter.com/WorkWiltshire)