

Work Placements, Traineeship and Apprenticeship Schemes

Draft extract from article to be published in the internal magazine in Sony called Life @ Sony. Consent by Sony was sought from the two young people to use their names in the report. However this consent does not extend to the use of their names for this report and in view of the circulation of the report the article has been anonymised.

Life @ Sony – summer 2011

Best Chance

UK TEC in Pencoed offered two young people their 'Best Chance' in March, thanks to an innovative scheme run by Business in the Community in partnership with local employers.

The 'Best Chance' programme arranges work placements for disadvantaged young adults who want to find a way into employment. Many of its participants are leaving care and lack confidence, skills and experience in adapting to the world of work.

"The goal is to help them learn what to expect in the workplace, how to present themselves and so on," explained an employee from UK TEC's Human Resources department.

"The two young people recently spent their two-week placements here, in Reception and Business Administration respectively. Both left with excellent references, which will stand them in good stead when it comes to applying for permanent jobs. They both loved their time here and sent us 'thank you' cards afterwards."

Their mentors within UK TEC also enjoyed the experience: "To be a buddy for Best Chance is so rewarding," One Business Administrator told Life @ Sony. "You discover skills you didn't know you had and it makes you look at your job in a completely different way. It's hard work, but I would recommend it to anyone."

Another member of staff agreed: "I thoroughly enjoyed having the young person with me in the office, and I'm sure the placement helped her a lot. I found being part of the programme extremely rewarding and I'd be only too happy to take part again."