

# Apprenticeship Learners Focus Group

Level 5

24rd November 2021

## Background

In order to develop our apprenticeship offer to learners and ensure we meet their needs going forward, as well as to discover our impact on learners, we scheduled a focus group with employers in November 2021.

Despite inviting over 50 learners and having 5 people confirm attendance, we only had 2 attendee on 24rd November 2021. Most other learners cited the Covid-19 pandemic as a reason for non-attendance.

### We asked 4 questions:

- What have you found to be the most helpful or the most positive thing about your experience on the programme?
- What would you like to see improve on the programme?
- What impact has the programme had you on as a learner and employee?
- What do you think is missing from our provision, as an employer?

### Attending

#### For NCE:

- Rachel O'Halleron
- Ruth Gilbert
- Ben Barton
- Andy Greene

#### Level 5 Learners:

- Lina Alfieri, Head of Faculty
- Stephen Mason, Course Leader

### Roundtable Summary

**What have you found to be the most helpful or the most positive thing about your experience on the programme?:**

- Having the personal tutor
- Being able to learn from the PLD and then write up thoughts as part of apprenticeship
- Access to Andy Buck (Programme Lead)
- Having resources online along with books sent to us that we can go back to
- Having a peer learning mentor to share experience with
- Being connected to a 'learning community'

**What would you like to see improve on the programme?:**

- Beginning the programme in September is challenging – July is better
- Having a more gentle start with assignments
- The technology could be easier to use.
- First day of learning was over-whelming – technology, acronyms, staff
- Better contextualisation for learners from different employers
- PLMs to have more leadership experience
- Less work on functional skills and British Values – we do this anyway

**What impact has the programme had on you and your organisation?:**

- The impact of the learning about diversity and inclusion – especially around recruitment of staff
- Personal mentoring has supported me to implement change in school
- Being able to have those coaching questions available when managing and empowering staff.
- Enabled me to reflect on my relationships with my manager and what her expectations of me are.

**What do you think is missing from our provision?:**

- Opportunity for an initial meeting with PLM before the first formal session with line manager.
- More opportunity to engage with the LGBTEd community and cohort
- More support for networking from my PLM

**Recommendations and Actions**

- Less over-whelming first day of learning
  - Initial meeting with PLM
  - Widen out the additionality from WomenEd across all the different cohorts.
  - More opportunities for engagement between learners.
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