

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 01/23

Date	6 January 2023
Briefing paper to	All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Purpose	To inform Members about the number of young people with special needs and care leavers who had been offered apprenticeships

1. Background

- 1.1. This note outlines the number of young people with special needs and care leavers who have been offered apprenticeships via Medway Council apprenticeship schemes. It is important to note that the educational entry requirements have increased, therefore not making them as accessible to all as they have previously been. A key example of this is the removal of the Business Administration Level 2 apprenticeship which was a key pathway for many young people.

2. Medway Apprenticeship Advice Service

- 2.1. There were no recorded starts for young people with Special Needs and Care Leavers. This does not mean there were no starts, only that businesses did not report this back to the advice service.

3. Skills & Employment Additional Restrictions Grant

- 3.1. The grant scheme funded apprenticeships, supported internships and supported employment. There were no recorded starts, however as in 2.1 this does not mean they did not happen. This funding was also used to create our new Aspirations Officer post, which is purely focused on supporting Care Leavers into Education, Employment & Training.

4. Aspirations Officer

4.1. Since appointing our Aspirations Officer, we have had 7 Care Leavers move into apprenticeships, with another due to start imminently. They have started in the following areas:

- 3 with Medway Council
- 1 in a nursery setting
- 1 Electrical Apprenticeship
- 1 with Young Lives Foundation and another due to start
- 1 in a care

5. Wider support for young people with Special Needs

5.1. There is a variety of support available for young people with special needs, this includes:

- Supported Internships – year long placements with an employer as part of a young person's education
- Supported Employment – a programme focused on helping those with learning disabilities and/or autism into paid employment – apprenticeship opportunities are always discussed
- Kent & Medway Careers Hub – wide ranging strategic careers support for Medway schools including special schools, helping to drive increased information about skills and employment options, including apprenticeships.

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