

Wirral Metropolitan College

LEAD CONTACT

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Two-Way Street

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

Leadership Perspectives

This project built upon an already existing and effective

Project aims

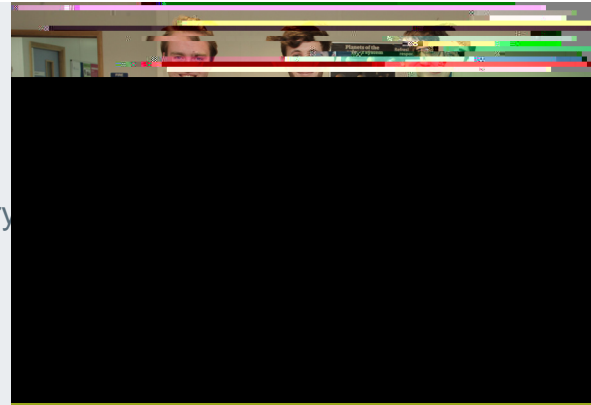
The specific aims of this project were to:

- Increase involvement of employers in the design and delivery of vocational programmes within the college;
- Improve employers' awareness of how to make best use of college resources to support business growth;
- Create new strategically significant opportunities for learners through Higher Level Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships and Traineeships in chemical, sciences and technologies sectors.

Project description

This *Leadership Exchange* built upon an already existing relationship between Wirral Metropolitan College and Unilever Ltd, a partnership which has been delivering an 'apprenticeship' programme in conjunction with the University of Liverpool for a number of years. The programme has been particularly successful in recruiting female apprentices. The *Leadership Exchange* meetings aimed to explore what the key enablers of this relationship were, with a view to developing similar schemes in different disciplines and to examine how transferable the partnership model might be to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Wirral area. The two SMEs involved were Arvia Technology and Altus Science.

Both Arvia Technology and Altus Science are 'hi-tech' chemical businesses based at Daresbury Science Park. The college is delivering Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLA) and Advanced Apprenticeships in partnership with both these companies and the *Leadership Exchange* sought to further develop this collaboration.



Positive impacts

For education provider

- Development of a more formalised and systematic model of employer partnership, which is transferable to a range of other employers;
- Embedding of processes to facilitate the co-design and delivery of elements of college programmes with employer partners;
- Development of an effective communication mechanism between the provider and employer through the involvement of senior managers.

For employers

- Development of a robust partnership model that can be used to reach out to employers and apprentices within the local area;
- Establishment of a Science Industry Employer/provider network, with a shared plan in place to meet both Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and occupational sector priorities;
- Opportunities to provide input on programme design and delivery and to contribute to discussions on resources that the college should purchase to support learners and employers.

For learners

Wirral Metropolitan College

Leadership Exchange at Wirral
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Key learning points



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Feedback

'This Leadership Exchange helped all partners to prioritise communication and bring a better understanding of challenges faced and achievements won by employers and providers of VET as we work