

News release: 17 September 2020

## £1,500 for companies taking on new young employees

Local employers are being encouraged to come together to apply to a new Kickstart Scheme that funds businesses to create six month job placements for young people who are out of work.

Launched this month by the government, the scheme provides funding to employers to create new six month job placements for people aged between 16 and 24 who are claiming universal credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.

The funding covers each job placement at a national minimum wage for 25 hours a week, as well as national insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

There is also £1,500 available for each job placement, to help with setup costs, support and training.

Applications must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. However, if a business is unable to create that many jobs on their own, they can partner with other organisations to reach the minimum number.

Lichfield District Council is now offering to be a representative of a group, and is encouraging local businesses, who would like to benefit from the scheme, to come forward.

**Councillor Liz Little, Lichfield District Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Economic Development, said:** "We really want local businesses to take part in this scheme and help our young people get back into the workplace, so they can learn new skills and get vital experience.

"This is why we will be acting as a representative of a group and are seeking employers across the district who are interested in recruiting through the scheme.

"We will need to reach at least 30 job placement from local businesses before we can apply, so please do get in touch now."

Kickstart is not an apprenticeship, but participants may move onto an apprenticeship at any time during or after their job placement.

To find out more, visit [www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme).

If businesses are interested in taking part in the scheme locally, or for further information, please email [economicdevelopment@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@lichfielddc.gov.uk).

Ends

**Media enquiries**

Esther Epstein, Press & Communications Officer, Lichfield District Council

**T:** 01543 308778 **E:** [esther.epstein@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:esther.epstein@lichfielddc.gov.uk)