

Case Study

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Stockport Council are keen supporters of the Finance Academy at Cheadle and Marple Sixth form College.

Victor Wright, Head of Civil Resilience, internship supervisor for intern Bradley believes the internship programme is not only beneficial for the student but has many benefits for the Council and its employees:

'We looked upon it as a team opportunity. There were individual development opportunities for each of our team, in terms of relating their role to someone who's effectively a member of the public. We had to find ways to explain, in terms of first principles, exactly what the purpose of the unit is. It was very helpful to look back and refresh our terms of reference asking ourselves what are we actually here for?

For Bradley the experience gave him a real insight into the job opportunities within the Council, 'I really enjoyed it – it was actually a lot better than I thought it would be! I thought I would just be stuck at a desk somewhere, but I had lots of chances to go out and about and do different things. I had no idea that the Council looked at all these things in so much detail.'

Elsewhere in the council Michelle Booth, Project Officer, was supporting student Shaista through her internship.

Michelle said 'It's great to give people a "real life" perspective on the types of work we do here. Sometimes they have a very blinkered view of what a council is – it can be a lot more of a business function than people realise. And it's good to have someone who brings fresh skills out of college that they can apply to some of the work that comes up.

And for Shaista the experience not only allowed her to work on these development areas but it has challenged her perception of the world of work 'It's been better than I expected. I thought my manager would be really scary, but she's lovely!'