

Joe Lewis

Advanced Mechanic

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Joe Lewis initially joined the Fleet Management department at Bath and North East Somerset Council on a work experience placement. After following a three-year Apprenticeship, he is a full-blown member of the team.

He said: "I was unsure what I wanted to do when I left school but thought an Apprenticeship could be a really good introduction to a career.

"I contacted Connexions for some advice on my future career and they suggested I went on an Entry to Employment programme which helps school leavers arrange work experience placements. They helped me to arrange a placement in the Fleet Management department at Bath and North East Somerset Council.

**"To start with I worked at the Council two days a week. I really enjoyed working with the team and so when an Apprenticeship position became available I decided to apply."**

"Even though I was already working on a voluntary basis I still had to go through the same formal process as all the other applicants, but had developed enough skills to be appointed.

"I went onto take NVQ Levels 2 and 3 and attended Radstock College one day a week to learn theory of mechanics and also underwent practical assessments. I completed my Apprenticeship in September 2008 and was really pleased when I was offered a full time job in the Fleet Management department.

"I feel like my hard work has paid off now. I enjoy being part of the team and it's great to know I have a strong career future at the Council."



Barry Richards

Service Team Manager

Bath & North East Somerset Council



Barry said: "In the past we had faced some difficulties recruiting qualified mechanics. The Council felt that employing an apprentice was a way to support our department in the long-term and also provide short-term help where we had limited resources.

**"We liked the idea of training someone with a view to them becoming a fully qualified member of the team within three years and that an apprentice would be trained to our standards and would be able to learn on the job."**

"During the last three years it has been a huge help to have Joe around and I have really seen him develop. He has needed our support less and less and has come on leaps and bounds. Having an apprentice has saved us a lot of time and enables the department to take on extra work.

"Joe's enthusiasm has never waned and I know he will continue to work hard to impress us. He is now comfortable working more independently and is taking on more responsibility, which supports the rest of the team.

"All in all I know the future is very bright for Joe as he has paved the way for a good career through his hard work and dedication."

