

NSAR supports businesses with apprenticeship development, support, evaluation and levy optimisation. We partnered with Medway Council to provide this support to businesses in Medway, Kent.

Client

Medway Council is the local authority of Medway in Kent, England.

Brief

NSAR partnered with Medway Council to provide an apprenticeship support service to Medway businesses that were having difficulties navigating the complexities of apprenticeship provision.

The aim of the service was to provide support to Medway businesses to help them understand apprenticeship frameworks and standards, optimise available levies and set up apprenticeships.

Three clear objectives were defined:

- Engaging with Medway businesses that could offer apprenticeships.
- Supporting Medway employers to identify posts that could be filled by Medway residents.
- Supporting Medway businesses to engage with the Levy Planner to enter their own data.

NSAR also provided resources or monthly drop-sessions for local businesses to touch base and seek advice.

Outcome

NSAR has contacted almost 600 businesses across the area, with approximately 130 meaningful engagements. For this, 44 organisations demonstrated a commitment to exploring apprentice opportunities further (34%). Eight organisations have taken on 20 apprentices between them. All apprentices are residents of the Medway area.

SPOTLIGHT

A-Class Driving School

As part of the apprenticeship support service, NSAR supported a driving school in Kent to train an apprentice.

A-Class Driving School has been providing driving lessons for cars, motorbikes and heavy goods vehicles for over 17 years. They hired two new office administrators as part of the Kickstart Scheme run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which provided funding to create new jobs for 16 to 24-year-olds.

Emily and Sacha were initially responsible for taking calls, monitoring emails and managing the office space. As their confidence and capability grew, they took on more tasks – processing client payments, filing and managing post.

A-Class Driving School decided to offer Emily an apprenticeship, due to the amazing effort she had put into her role. They reached out to NSAR for support to get Emily's training programme set up. NSAR found a training provider to assist A-Class in teaching Emily the skills she needed to succeed.

A-Class said; "The partnership formulated between our business, the DWP, NSAR and Medway Council made [Emily's] transition an easy process."

"The support given by NSAR has been amazing and the whole journey has been a fantastic experience."