

# Wirral Metropolitan College

## LEAD CONTACT

Heather Aspinwall - College Manager [LT77m3@uTh21](mailto:LT77m3@uTh21)



# 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  
Metropolitan College

Two-Way Street

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

## Key learning points



## 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*