



Plan 500 FAQs

Plan 500 Targets – *Working with employers and partners to create 500 opportunities:*

- 150 Work Experience opportunities
- 150 apprenticeship opportunities
- 100 business mentoring opportunities
- 50 work based qualification opportunities
- 50 opportunities in support of the school Diploma

What is Plan 500?

Plan 500 is about creating **opportunities** – and aims to be the employer gateway to engaging with young people. Therefore, if an employer wants to engage and support opportunities for young people aged 16-24 in Swindon Plan 500 can help.

Too often employers are approached by a multitude of agencies offering products such as apprenticeships or NVQs. This can lead to confusion as to whether or not this is the right product to suit their business needs. By signing up to Plan 500 employers can be sure that they receive impartial and accurate advice.

Why opportunities and not actual jobs?

Employers are the only people who can create jobs!

What commitment do I have if I sign up to be a Business Mentor?

Plan 500 seeks to deliver business mentoring opportunities to 100 young people. All individuals that sign up to offer business mentoring will be invited to attend a 1 day training course, facilitated by Inspired 2 Learn, a training provider accredited with the Institute of Leadership and Management. The first training date is fully booked, and the next one is 1/3 full.

Once you have received your training you will be given details of the young person to be mentored who will likely be someone coming to the end of their Future Jobs Fund 6 month work placement, and will require support with their CV, interview skills etc. This commitment will be as much or as little as you can provide and will not exceed 6 months in duration.

What if I'm interested in Apprenticeships?

If you register an interest in apprenticeships you will receive contact from the employer relationships manager for the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS). He will be able to provide you

with impartial information to decide whether or not an apprenticeship is right for your business, including the potential costs.

How can I offer Work Experience?

Work experience falls into 3 categories:

- Work experience for schools
- Work experience for young people aged 18-24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Work experience for the Swindon Talent Pool

Work experience for schools:

Schools are always seeking employers who will support young people to understand what working life will mean. You can do this in a variety of ways which can include offering work experience opportunities in your workplace, attending careers days, giving talks to students etc.

Work experience for young people aged 18-24 claiming JSA:

You could offer between 2-8 weeks of work experience for young people at no cost as the young person will continue to receive their benefits. You determine the type of job role and who and how you select the right person for the job role.

Work experience for the Swindon Talent Pool

Plan 500 is building a database of young people who are either degree qualified, or are about to leave college or sixth form with high level qualifications. If you have a specific task or activity that would require higher level skills you may be able to find your ideal candidate in the Talent Pool.

What is work based qualifications about?

If you currently employ young people aged 18-24 you may be able to access funding for free NVQ qualifications for them. Plan 500 can support you in identifying if you can access this free funding to invest in your staff development.

What are school Diplomas?

School Diplomas were developed to be delivered in schools and colleges to suit the needs of young people that required a more vocational learning style. As part of this learning young people should receive input and guidance from employers that may include access to experiences in the workplace.

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