



It is vital that local young people are ready for the modern world of work when they leave West Herts College. 'This is why partnerships with supportive employers like Osborne are so important. The workplace opportunities they offer are key to developing our students' work readiness. 'It has the power to inspire the next generation and to boost productivity across our local economy.

Chris Pearson, Director of Corporate Affairs at West Herts College ‘

Issue

Delivering social value is an intrinsic part of the role played by local authorities and housing associations. This commitment is embodied in the Social Value Act, which aims to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing for every community.

As property maintenance partners we can play an important part to support our customer's aims by adapting our corporate learning and activities to bring fresh ideas and approaches. More importantly we have people who are committed to the communities in which we work and want to make a difference.

Solution

At Dacorum Council, we have partnered with West Herts College and Astley Cooper School to provide opportunities for young people. The innovative partnerships and STEM events included:

- Adaptation of our award-winning STOP 'Think' behavioural safety programme

in a way that awakens students to how they can 'think differently' and make better life decisions.

- Providing workplace opportunities for students to gain first-hand insight into what careers the construction industry can offer them.
- A pilot work-based learning programme which has enabled BTEC students to split their time between the workplace and school. As a result, Rebecca joined our Dacorum Repairs and Maintenance Team as a Plumber Operative.

In parallel with providing opportunities for students we have taken creative steps to support organisations and groups with an amazing array of events:

- We helped HOME Slough create a pop-up space on the High Street for art and cultural activities leading to 879 different sessions to date.
- Joining with students from Winchester University, 'First Bite' provided Sunday lunch for older residents.
- Young carers in Winchester received a 'Halloween treat'.

Outcome

These wide-ranging initiatives and many more are designed to improve the lives for people living in the estates and communities where we work.

In just 6 months from 1st April and 31st October 2019 our property services investment in London and the South East meant:

- 153 community initiatives were completed
- 10,682 local people benefitted
- 17 local facilities were improved
- Our people volunteered 298 hours of their time
- £11,869 of materials was donated by us and supply partners.

In recognition of the benefits, West Herts College presented us with their 2019 Employer Excellence Award for inspiring the next generation of students.