

Press Release

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Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire celebrates its third year

- **A celebration and awards ceremony will take place at the Welcome Centre in Coventry on 22nd June 2017 to celebrate the third year of delivery for the successful employment programme.**
- **Achievements of young people recognised as they have developed skills to enable them to gain employment.**

Young people from across Nuneaton, Bedworth, North Warwickshire and Coventry are invited to a prestigious celebration evening at Coventry's Welcome Centre. The event will be held to recognise the achievements of young people participating in the Talent Match programme funded by the Big Lottery and to celebrate the third full year of delivery.

Over the last three years, Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire has supported over three hundred unemployed young people aged 18-24. Of these, nearly 100 have already progressed into employment, which is a significant achievement considering the average length of unemployment when young people sign up to the programme is nearly 2 years. All participants have been supported to develop skills and have been offered the opportunity to complete a range of accredited learning which has boosted their employment chances. You can also find out more about the national Talent Match initiative by visiting:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>.

Inspiring videos and presentations from young people will demonstrate how the programme has helped them to develop in confidence, overcome barriers, gain skills and better equip them to compete in the jobs market. Young people will also display some of the work they have produced as part of the courses delivered by Talent Match partner organisations. Presentations will be followed by the awards ceremony.

Paul Tolley the CEO of Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action is looking forward to the event and has commented *‘The evening will be a fantastic opportunity to recognise the achievements of the Talent Match programme in Coventry & Warwickshire. The young people participating in the scheme will tell us some inspirational stories about how they have used the support of the project to overcome adversity and progress into positive destinations. It is so much more than just another employment initiative scheme, the Talent Match programme is about supporting young people to live successful and fulfilled lives. It is clear that Talent Match is making a real difference to the lives of long-term unemployed young people.’*

For enquires relating to the Talent Match programme please contact Harriett Slinn, Project Mentor on 07703 715157 or email: talentmatch@wcava.org.uk. You can also find out more about the national Talent Match initiative by visiting:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>

Notes to editors:

- For more information about this press release, please contact Harriett Slinn on 07703 715157. Email: harriet.slinn@wcava.org.uk
- Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action is the leading local infrastructure and support organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Warwickshire. For further information visit www.wcava.org.uk.
- Warwickshire CAVA is the lead partner in the delivery of Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire.
- The Big Lottery Fund have invested £108million over 5 years into the Talent Match initiative and have funded 21 areas across the country.
- You can also find out more about the national Talent Match initiative by visiting: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Last year it awarded £583 million and supported around 12,000 projects across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people