

Q&A with Genesis Housing Association's apprentice, Sean Peyton

What is your role at Genesis?

My job title is project admin apprentice. I work within the Social & Economic Regeneration team assisting officers with their projects & programmes. Since joining Genesis in February, I have been involved in setting up the forthcoming Work Experience week, supporting in the annual Grahame Park Fun Day & assisted with the Genesis Enterprise Programme.

What do you mostly enjoy and why?

The thing I enjoy most about my apprenticeship is the variety that is on offer. I recently attended a meeting where admin apprenticeships were described as 'back office jobs' however my role at Genesis couldn't be more different. I have many responsibilities and I feel like the work I do actually counts towards something and that's something I enjoy being a part of. Further to this, I enjoy the working environment at Genesis. When I joined I was apprehensive as I was young & inexperienced however everyone has made me feel welcome and that has really helped me progress. I know support is there from a colleague if I need it but at the same time I like having the independence to get things done by myself.

What attracted you to the apprenticeship programme?

I studied at sixth form for one year, but I realised that an apprenticeship would be more fitting for me - I wanted to further my education without sitting in a classroom. For me, learning whilst I'm earning is a better option. Following my dad's career choice, I wanted to get into the property/housing sector without being on a construction site so an apprenticeship within the SER team at Genesis appealed to me. I had heard of Genesis in the past and some of the great work they've done in my local community which is another factor that attracted me to this apprenticeship in particular.

How has the Genesis apprenticeship programme helped you in your career to date?

Before working at Genesis, I had a part time job as a sales assistant in a Pawnbrokers' so my customer services skills were there but that was pretty much it. Since starting my apprenticeship, I have gained a lot of experience from undertaking various tasks such as setting up events, managing finances & writing up promotional material for some of our programmes. These are all transferrable skills that will benefit me in the future as well as throughout my apprenticeship.

How do you see your career growing?

I am thinking about going onto do a higher-level apprenticeship either here at Genesis or elsewhere. As I will only be 20 years old when I complete my apprenticeship at Genesis, continuing to study & further my education is a good option for me. I have had a brief look at team leading & management apprenticeships so that is one route I could take.