

I LOVE MY APPRENTICESHIP!



Matthew Levesley, Flagship Group, Housing Policy and Practice Apprentice

- **Where did you go to school?** Sprowston Community High School
- **What subjects did you study?** For A Levels I studied History, Classic Civilisation and Media Studies
- **Why did you choose an Apprenticeship?** When deciding on what to do, I liked the idea of building my career and learning whilst gaining real-life experience rather than going to university. I wanted to gain work place skills rather than continuing in full-time education and having the worry of finding a job after completing a degree.
- **What path did you take to get to your current position?** After completing my A levels I searched the Government's 'Find an Apprenticeship' webpage and applied for a number of apprenticeships; I found my current apprenticeship and successfully went through the application process.

I started my apprenticeship journey with a week-long visit to my Level 4 provider in Manchester to meet the tutors and since then, in the workplace, I have gone on to work in numerous departments, including our call centre, Housing Management, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Legal and Governance (where I am currently based).

- **What does a typical day in your role look like?** Currently in Governance I'm focused on risk management – looking at some of the risks to the organisation and how Flagship makes sure the risks are managed. I also monitor the company's policies, so the Governance Team has an oversight of policies across the Group as well as making sure that colleagues across the organisation are aware of Group policies
- **What do you think are the most valuable skills have you learnt on your apprenticeship?** The most valuable skills that I have picked up so far on my apprenticeship includes public speaking through presenting to a variety of audiences in the workplace, effective communication, collaborative working, responding to vulnerability and assertiveness. Through my Assertiveness Training, I learnt how to not be aggressive or passive in my actions, finding the perfect middle ground between the two in communication.
- **What is the job prospect/progression when you complete your apprenticeship?** Upon completing the apprenticeship, I will start working full-time in a business area that I am

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- **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** In five years I see myself at Flagship in an established role, taking on a more senior position in the organisation, but also continuing with my personal development.
- **What do you like best about being an apprentice?** For me the best thing about being an apprentice is the fact that it's the best of both worlds with formal education still being involved and then working and constantly learning on the job as well. I really enjoy learning and personal development, so an apprenticeship suits my needs.

Why do you love your apprenticeship?

I love the support from the company and the opportunities to grow and develop. The fact that I can get a degree and get paid for it is amazing, Flagship constantly offers additional training opportunities to help with my studies and my skills in the workplace – such as the assertiveness training, understanding finance training and conflict management training for example.