SEND Employment Forum January updates

Here is an update on the recent events which have been organised at Abingdon & Witney college across January:

The first event, held on 23.01.25, provided an opportunity for employers and educators to collaborate and ensure the best outcomes for young people in Oxfordshire. This event was delivered by trainers from Talentino! Careers & Skills Builder Partnership. Please find attached the "Pathways to Success Conference 2025" slide deck.

The second event, hosted on 30.01.25 was aimed at our young people. We had 46 young people attend across Kingfisher, Fitzwaryn, City of Oxford, Mabel Prichard, and Abingdon & Witney. The workshop, planned with the Skills Builder Framework, was highly engaging, and we have received exceptional feedback from our delegates on both events. Please find attached the slide deck from the workshop.

Next steps:

1) We intend to host an online preparation webinar to engage a wider demographic of our young individuals with SEND (14+ years). Our goal is to increase representation across various age groups and needs at the Reverse Recruitment Fair (26.06.25).
2) We will host the Reverse Recruitment Fair on 26.06.25. Both our employers and young participants will have attended the preparatory workshops.
3) Support Talentino! Careers conduct a widespread needs analysis in the local area and offer virtual CoP sessions to settings and partners (September 2025-February 2026).
4) Following the Reverse Recruitment Fair in-person preparation session (Universal Framework) on 30th Jan, we are providing some follow-up sessions online to explore the Skills Builder benchmark (Benchmark | Skills Builder) and setting our educators up on the platform, enabling people to use it with the young individuals attending the reverse recruitment fair on 26th June. These sessions will run across February.

Our new Chair for the SEND Employment Forum is Will Gardner, Team Manager for Oxfordshire Employment. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved: lydia.martin@oxfordshire.gov.uk.