

County Council Meeting – 14 December 2023**Question to Councillor Philip White
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy
and Skills****By Councillor Pardesi**

Question

How can SCC help get the economically inactive back into suitable employment?

Reply

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) supports the economically inactive into suitable employment through a number of routes both directly by its own services, and through relationships with key partners. SCC delivers the Staffordshire Jobs & Careers Service, a single point of contact for residents to secure job opportunities and career ambitions. The service offers a bespoke offer to candidates including CV support, promotion of jobs fairs and the matching of skills and qualifications to job vacancies.

SCC also delivers Community Learning and Multiply programmes through its direct delivery arm and delivery partners. The programmes provide adults with skills required to progress to employment. Community Learning courses are designed to provide adults with the skills to be connected to the digital world, improving employment opportunities, financial and social well-being. Multiply is aimed at those who may want to develop their numeracy skills for work or progression and those that want to brush up and develop their numeracy skills for everyday life and work.

SCC also works with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and key partners to promote employability opportunities for residents. The [Work and Health Programme Pioneer](#) is DWP's contracted employment provision to support the economically inactive, persons who have a disability, the long-term unemployed and specified disadvantaged groups, to find sustained work.

SCC is also working with key partners to support programmes, recently announced under the governments back to work plan, particularly targeting economically inactive and those with mild to severe health conditions acting as a barrier to employment. Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Integrated

Care Board is preparing a submission for the [WorkWell Vanguard](#). Vanguard areas will design and deliver a new early-intervention assessment and support service. It will provide participants with light-touch holistic support for their health-related barriers to employment through return to/thrive in work plans, and a single, joined-up view and gateway into the services that are available locally to manage their specific needs.

Also the [Universal Support](#) programme has been announced by government that will provide employment support to help the economically inactive, people with disabilities, people with health conditions and people with additional barriers to employment, to progress into sustained work.

