

Warrington Newsletter

Gain new qualifications with Journey First



Welcome from Journey First

Journey First is a holistic employment support service in Cheshire and Warrington. The Journey First programme provides intensive 1-2-1 support for young people and adults across Cheshire and Warrington. Our dedicated team can help participants to identify their skills and reach their goals, whether that be support with job searches and employment or access to further education or training.

Warrington's Journey First team thrive on quality partnership work to support participants in achieving their goals in employment, education and training.

We firmly believe that each Journey First participant can benefit from partnership working between organisations, services and stakeholders to ensure a coordinated, holistic support approach.

IN THIS EDITION

MORTHYNG IN FOCUS

THE IMPACT OF OUR JOB COACHES

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM JOURNEY FIRST?



EUROPEAN UNION

European Social Fund

Morthyng in focus

Our job coaches work hard to build meaningful relationships with Journey First's people and partners, to develop sustainable outcomes. Laura Jones, one of our team of job coaches, recently highlighted some of the effective partnership work between Journey First and a local Education/ Training Provider:

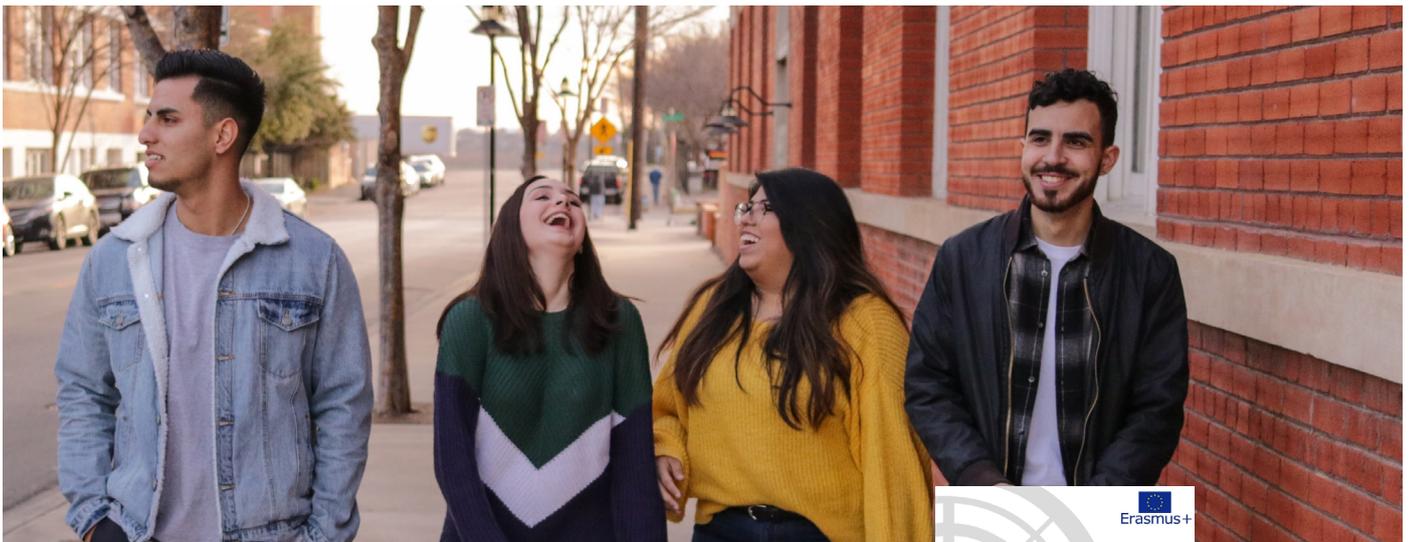
"Morthyng Vocational College is a work-based college located on Sankey Street in the heart of Warrington town centre. They help students improve their functional skills in English and Maths, undertake vocational qualifications and gain practical work-related experience, whilst building confidence and communication skills throughout.

"Students also receive a training bursary for ongoing participation, and are supported every step of the way by a dedicated Student Support Officer."

"Morthyng has small class sizes, a flexible timetable and a social, supportive learning environment.

"On first visiting the college with a Journey First participant we were offered a tour of the college and it was a warm and welcoming environment. "Gill Christer (Student Support Officer) explained that participants/students would need to complete an initial assessment to see what level of support they require. She also explained that the classes are small (which is great for participants that don't like big groups), and that all the staff are friendly and welcoming.

"My participant signed up the very next day due to the positive, supportive atmosphere and I have subsequently had 2 more participants enrol at Morthyng Vocational College because of this. For young people aged 16-19 they also offer those with SEND support with re-sitting their English and Maths, alongside further vocational support. This place is ideal. It also has a strict no bullying policy, which was extremely reassuring, for my participants - who unfortunately have previously had that experience."





In addition to partners in the education sector, Journey First has built effective working relationships with a wide range of local services, including community venues and teams. Our approach is to always offer a positive, honest experience for all stakeholders, ultimately benefitting our participants.

And it is obvious from partner feedback that Laura embodies this approach in her Job Coach role: "I've watched Laura when she has been in our children's centre. She is always, welcoming

and bouncy with a really good vibe. I felt she was the type of person who would think outside of the box and not be judgmental, and be the right person to support a young person I was working with.

"And how right was I?! Our young participant has engaged really well with Laura and has now enrolled in college. Thanks you so much for what you have done. I know it will mean so much to the young person." Angela Taylor, Family Support Worker, Warrington Borough Council



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new career paths
with Journey First**

The impact of our Job Coaches

Journey First's Job Coaches and their colleagues work with people of all ages, from all backgrounds, exploring any barriers they may face, on their terms.

Amongst other topics, this can include mental health, long-term unemployment, language barriers and physical disabilities. We are delighted to share our next good news story from our Job Coach, Laura Jones, who has worked closely with Margaret Mullin, our specialist Information, Advice and Guidance Officer, alongside Kem, an Independent Advocate from 'Connect Yourself'.

'Connect Yourself' is delivered by Warrington Speak Up and offers support to young adults at risk of social exclusion following education to explore and identify challenges, and link them to a range of local opportunities. The service complements Journey First by focussing on challenges outside Employment, namely Independent Living, Good Health and Friends, Relationships and Community.

The impact of this partnership work is highlighted by Laura Jones for our participant, 'S'.

"In his journey so far S has completed a CV with us, looked at different jobs and the skills/ qualifications needed. S has an interest in a driving job and is a very capable driver, however he is struggling to pass his theory test due to some of his barriers and the short time limit to answer the questions.

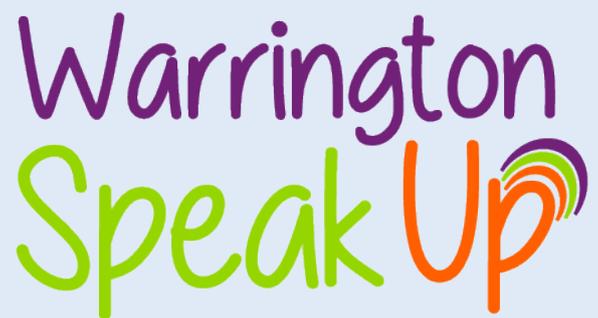
"S found the BSL interpreter too fast, and therefore struggled to keep up. Our good news story is S agreed a referral to 'Connect Yourself' and his advocate is now challenging the DVLA on his behalf so we can overcome this barrier, get his theory passed, and confidently apply for driving jobs.

"I would love to support S to reach his goals! I know the theory test is an issue at the moment - I can support this, speak to the DVLA and

under the Equality Act ask for adjustments to be made to the time frame, allowing S to answer confidently. I am also checking if subtitles would be available."

Kem, Independent Advocate, 'Connect Yourself', Warrington Speak Up

By working collaboratively we sincerely hope to be able to support S to achieve his employment ambitions.



Do you know someone who would benefit from Journey First?

As European Social Funding for Journey First only lasts until mid-2023, we are actively seeking further referrals from local people and organisations. We want to support as many young people and adults to achieve their dreams and ambitions, helping them with their own, individual 'journey'.

In 2022, we look forward to working alongside our current (and future) participants, employers and partners in a bid to ensure our thriving local economy is as inclusive as possible, benefiting the whole community.

Further Information

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