



## **Warwickshire County Council youth worker recognised for outstanding contribution to community**

Hamish Cameron, youth worker at Warwickshire County Council, has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to young people as part of West Midlands Employers (WME) #EverydayHeroes campaign.\*

Hamish began working with young people when he volunteered at a youth library project for over 20 years ago and has been working with young people ever since. When lockdown hit Hamish and his team were determined not to let the young people they support down and looked for ways to deliver support virtually.

He is shifted the delivery of a bike project, which started in October 2019, from face to face sessions to virtual support in a bid to keep supporting vulnerable young people. The project, which is funded by Police and Crime Commissioner, uses 50 old bikes that were donated by Warwick University to the Council's Youth Support Team to help young people develop bike maintenance and other skills.

This project is aimed at young people who are from care, referred by social and family workers or in danger of being excluded from school. Projects like this give vulnerable young people a focus and real opportunity to gain both practical and soft skills.

**Hamish says**, "I'm absolutely delighted to be recognised as part of the #Everydayheroes campaign. I feel passionate about youth work and the difference it can make to young people's lives."

**Rebecca Davis, Chief Executive of West Midlands Employers, said**, "It has been great to hear about the fantastic work Hamish and his team have been doing. He plays such an important role in helping to inspire, empower and support young people."

**Warwickshire County Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services,** said: “Here at Warwickshire County Council, every member of our staff puts children at the heart of everything they do, and this is apparent in Hamish’s everyday role, supporting children and young people in Warwickshire.

“We want all children in Warwickshire to lead safe, healthy and independent lives so it has been very important to us to keep initiatives like The Bike Project going, even during lockdown. Hamish and our amazing members of staff have been challenged to come up with innovative and creative ways to keep connected with our vulnerable children and young people during isolation, and The Bike Project demonstrates just one way we’ve done that!”

\*Local authority improvement body WME, owned by [33 councils](#) across the West Midlands, launched the campaign this month to recognise #EverydayHeroes – council workers who are working around the clock to keep essential services running and keep us safe through the coronavirus crisis.

Anyone can nominate one or more local council heroes [here](#). West Midlands Employers will review nominations in partnership with the relevant council and we will share their stories via <https://wmheroes.co.uk/meet-your-heroes/>.

Ends

#### **For further information contact**

**Emma Price T: 07876 505 340 E [emma@beheardmedia.co.uk](mailto:emma@beheardmedia.co.uk)**

#### **Notes to editors – About West Midlands Employers**

West Midland Employers (WME) is one of 9 independent regional employer organisations nationally.

WME is a not for profit membership organisation owned by the 33 West Midlands local authorities. We are led by an Elected Member Management Board representing the membership body with a Chief Executive leading the organisation. Chief Executive Rebecca Davis is available through media interviews through the contact details above.

WME’s vision is **“to advocate, build and champion people centred organisations for a resilient and diverse public sector workforce that benefits everyone in the**

**West Midlands”**. WME launched their new Strategic Plan 2020 -25 earlier this year <https://bit.ly/3aYsvHF> <http://www.wmemployers.org.uk/ourwork>

WME is playing a pivotal role in the Local Government response to the Covid-19 crisis and is providing daily support through their Covid-19 site (<https://wmeccovid19.org.uk/>), including provision of advice, innovative webinars, recruitment and resourcing and weekly bulletins [Pulse Extra bulletin](#)

WME also work in partnership with public and private sector organisations to design and deliver services on behalf of the 33 Councils in the Region, which span the employee lifecycle including: candidate attraction, recruitment, talent management, training and development, executive coaching and mentoring, leadership development, organisational design and restructuring, job evaluation, investigations, mediation and exit plans.