



Wyre Forest District Council worker recognised for outstanding contribution to the community

Rose Leonard, Financial Inclusion Officer, at Wyre Forest District Council, has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the community as part of West Midlands Employers (WME) #EverydayHeroes campaign.*

Rose started working at the council on a six week stint helping out with processing bus passes for concessionary travel and she's still there twenty eight years later.

As a child she grew up with domestic violence. And following the breakdown of her first marriage she ended up homeless, and turned to the council for help. She always remembers how hard that time was and treats people as she would want to be treated, which she believes helps her in her role.

Before the pandemic Rose helped people avoid being evicted. With evictions having been suspended during the pandemic, Rose is helping people vulnerable people directly with the support that they need whether that's just lending an ear or making sure they have food.

In her 'spare' time Rose is making masks and hairbands for the keyworkers in hospitals and care homes locally. She's also making wash bags for NHS uniforms reusing old pillowcases with a draw string.

Lisa Hutchinson, Principal Accountant at Wyre Forest District Council, put Rose forward to be a hero. She says, "Rose is helping so many vulnerable families across our district and I would just like to say a massive thank you to her."

Ian Miller, Chief Executive of Wyre Forest District Council said, "We are extremely proud of the way all our teams have adapted to new ways of working to make sure we can keep delivering essential services. Rose is an excellent example of how colleagues are

supporting others, not just at work but in their private lives too. She thoroughly deserves to be recognised for her outstanding contribution to the community.”

Rebecca Davis, Chief Executive of West Midlands Employers, says, “Rose continues to do everything she can to support people who are experiencing difficulties. It is fantastic to see how she is going above and beyond to support people working in the NHS and the wider community.”

Rose says, “It is fantastic to be recognised as a hero. I have always tried to support people as much as I can and luckily I work with some amazing colleagues to do the same.”

[You can read more about Rose here.](#)

*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

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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://wme-covid19.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.