



**Sarah Rouse, Independent Leader of Malvern Hills District Council, is recognised for outstanding contribution to the community**

Sarah Rouse, Independent Leader of Malvern Hills District Council has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the community as part of West Midlands Employers (WME) #EverydayHeroes campaign.\*

Councillor Sarah has had her work cut out for her since being appointed as leader of Malvern Hills District Council last year. First the district was hit with floods again and next came Covid-19, which has meant Sarah has been in crisis mode for most of her time as the Independent Leader, following the election last year.

She has been praised for how she has responded and thrown herself into helping people locally through the crisis. In fact, a social worker called to say how relieved she was that Sarah had sorted out support for her patient's return from hospital.

Sarah has been communicating and working closely with all 37 councillors on the Council to ensure they are doing all they can to support the community during lockdown. She says, "I'm all about the community, all about bringing councillors together with officers and doing what's right for residents. I don't do games, I don't do party politics or point scoring."

She praises the staff at the Council. She says, "Our staff have been amazing, getting the business grants out, keeping services going, working out how we can make social distancing work in services, like public toilets. And other awful things we've had to think about like dealing with excess deaths. I can't thank them enough."

Sarah is also looking beyond the pandemic and trying to work with partners to ensure some of the positive things remain, like the volunteers, community spirit and support for the homeless community.

[You can read more about Sarah 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

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

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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.