

Spire Homes and the Future Jobs Fund programme help young people find jobs



Spire Homes has been successful in creating 12 employment opportunities for young people this year. They have been part of a national bid to the Future Jobs Fund programme which has been created by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Working with Groundwork UK and the National Housing Federation, over 6,000 jobs will be created nationally to give young people aged between 18-24 years the opportunity to learn new skills, boost their confidence and gain experience in the workplace to increase their chances of securing employment.

Ricky Ellis has found employment thanks to Spire Homes and the Future Jobs Fund programme. He was previously signed up with the Job centre for 7 months, and regularly sent out CVs and application forms, until his personal advisor referred him to Spire Homes and the Future Jobs Fund programme. He is now working as a Technical Assistant, with the Care and Repair Technical officers at Spire Homes.

"It is a perfect fit" says Ricky. "I studied Carpentry and Joinery in college, so it helps me to understand how to do drawings and illustrations, which is what I do now. It's nice to see construction from an officer's point of view, rather than a contractor."

Ricky helps the Technical officers with surveys and drawings, and uses AutoCAD which he really enjoys. *"The team is really friendly and I felt like I fitted in straight away. Drawing on the computer with AutoCAD is excellent, and I have picked it up really quickly. I really hope I get to stay at Spire, but if not this experience has given me the drive and confidence boost to get a job in ICT."*

Ricky has also been given the opportunity to go on training courses with Spire Homes, such as a Health and Safety and Minute training courses, and he feels this knowledge and experience will greatly benefit him in the future.

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Julie Doyle, Managing Director of Spire Homes said *“Investing in our young people in the areas in which we work is a high priority for us. We are going to work with our local contractors to ensure they get the best opportunities to enable them to learn new skills and stay in the workplace”*.

Spire will also be working with FWA West and Jeakins Weir to provide the 12 job opportunities. They will offer a broad range of work experience with the potential to offer permanent employment opportunities too.

Bebe Leigh is 19yrs old and has been working with Spire Homes since May this year. She found out about the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) through her Job Seekers advisor and Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd, who told her that Spire Homes were involved with this new initiative. Before Bebe found out about the FJF and Spire Homes, she volunteered at Whitefriars Junior School as a classroom assistant and was on Job Seekers allowance.

When asked about her new job, Bebe says, *“It’s superb. Everyone is so kind and helpful; and I find the work is so varied, and a good mix between easy and challenging.”*

Bebe’s job is Trainee Contract Administrator and has a wide range of duties, from inputting orders and invoices, recording surveys for Ground Maintenance, Electrical Testing, External Works and Roofing and entering them on to spreadsheets. *“I’m currently gathering the information for the renewals spreadsheet for Rutland and East Northants, and I input any extra information needed on Promaster for contracts or survey information. This is something I find really interesting.”*

Bebe enjoys being trusted with various jobs and projects, and learning about different software. *“I love being given the responsibility to work on my own, and also with the people in my team. They’ve made everything easier and more enjoyable.”* Bebe has received training for using Promaster, and is also going to undertake Data Protection training.

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"I would definitely recommend the Future jobs fund initiative to anyone, especially working with Spire Homes. It always looks better on a CV if you've been somewhere for extra training and experience" says Bebe.



*Left: Ricky Ellis
Below: Bebe Leigh*



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