

Welcome to the 10th edition of our fortnightly bulletin Covid-19 edition of The Pulse.

This will be the last edition of the bulletin in this format as we move to delivering our core business and strategic priorities. We will instead be moving to a monthly newsletter to update you with all our exciting work to support the Regions Recovery.

This week has seen us present our first virtual HOT network event, with 10 speakers on the themes of resilience and wellbeing. Look out for our reviews and commentary on the sessions in our Pulse newsletter next month, and details of where you can access the recordings.

From the WME Leadership Team



The Regions Elected Members, at the heart of our work

This week we issued our first Elected Member Bulletin a newsletter from our Management Board .

With a foreword from our Board Chair Cllr Ken Meeson the bulletin details the work of the Board and how WME has been responding to the pandemic. It also connects readers to our new strategic plan and membership offer for 2020/2021. We want to keep our elected members informed and up to date with the work we do, and to help to champion and support workforce issues which impact across the whole region.

The bulletin is being circulated by our Member Board in a peer to peer approach which we hope will help develop wider relationships and support from members.

You can read the newsletter [here](#)

Helping your Council deliver when you need to

As we move into recovery we wanted to remind our member councils that, as we are owned by the 33 councils in the region, you have ready access to support and services with a reduced need for tendering and procurement.

Many of you will be able to rely on your own local standing orders which may also allow a purchase without procurement approach from WME as an entity you co-own along with other councils or where the value of services being purchased is below a diminimus level.

If you would like any further support or information about procurement please contact our Corporate Finance team who will be able to discuss your requirements.

Adult Social Care Campaign Update

Our work on the Social Care Campaigns **#ComeBackToCare**, **#StepUpNow** and **#TimeToCare** has seen over 400 candidates registered to the West Midlands Social Care Talent Bank with 15 people appointed so far.

With the need of the pool focussing around qualified roles, we in turn have re-focussed our campaign marketing around targeting AMHPs, Occupational Therapists, Nurses, Care workers and based on recent conversations with authorities, Best Interest Assessors as we look to grow the pool in these areas.

As the lockdown restrictions lessen and recruitment focusses, for now, on more general recruitment we have started to look at the pools to understand how they can provide the most value in the longer term to support the needs of the region. Look out for more on this in our future updates.

Working Virtually – taking it to the next level

West Midlands Employers are thrilled to share with you some exciting news – we have launched two brand new insightful and practical Masterclasses: The **Making Virtual Working Work Masterclass** and the **Human Conversations Masterclass**.

Making Virtual Working Work Masterclass

Understanding human mindset and behaviours to enable successful virtual working is essential as we continue with virtual working for the foreseeable future. **Building trusted relationships between managers and employees is heightened during a virtual working environment, this programme helps managers and employees.** This masterclass is well positioned to provide insights and guidance for our workforce to make this a success.

As public sector organisations, we have a real opportunity to reform, re-imagine and re-invent ourselves as we continue to work virtually, ensuring that we are make virtual working work! We have got an exciting programme that is underpinned by academic research, theory in neuroscience and occupational psychology. For more information and booking details click on the following link [here](#)

Human Conversations

Good communication is essential in any relationship but when your team is virtual it is crucial through effective human conversations. A timely and very relevant programme, the way we work has changed – and the need for team cohesion and social relationships is essential for effective performance and employee wellbeing.

Good Human Communication will be at the heart of this success, which will ensure that employees are invested in this new vision with their hearts and minds. For more information and booking details click on the following link [here](#)

For more information and to book sessions contact the team via info@wmemployers.org.uk

Promoting the incredible work of our Local Government #everydayheroes

Our #everydayheroes campaign continues to build momentum, this week profiling [Jamie Lewis](#) from Nuneaton and Bedworth's Waste Collection service, [Andrew Woodall](#) who is battling isolation through digital inclusion from Telford and Wrekin's Library Services, The new Chief Executive of Rugby Borough Council [Mannie Ketley](#) on moving into post at the height of lockdown, [Louise](#) from Walsall supporting local businesses to re-open safely as lock down measures ease and [Barry Jones](#) who is as passionate about Dudley as he is his job as a nurse working with the council as head of health protection.

You can read all the latest media releases on the campaign [here](#)

Welcome to our new Corporate Members

This month we are pleased to welcome two new corporate members to the WME family.

Wolverhampton Homes and Birmingham Childrens Trust have joined us this month , we look forward to working with them in the future.

WME here for you when you need us!

Do let us know if there is any specific support you need that we can help you with:

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Click here to read our latest wider WME Newsletter [The Pulse March 2020](#)

