

# Meet our new volunteer!

Name: Josiah Harvey

Position: Support & Training Worker (Smethwick Office)

What made you want to apply for a position with Ashley Community Housing?

*I am a person full of community spirit; I enjoy promoting a safe community. I want everyone to get involved and help people who are isolated get back into the community. This was one of the reasons why I seeked employment within the housing sector. Ashley Community Housing helps people to overcome such issues and so I thought it was a great opportunity because it's what I want to do. We share the same values and so it's a perfect platform to put those values into practice.*

**Caring. Empowering. Integrity. Respecting. Excellence.**

Could you tell us a little bit about your apprenticeship?

*My apprenticeship will take around 12 months to complete. I will be studying an NVQ in Business Administration combined with practical on the job training as a support and training worker.*

What are you enjoying the most about your new position within Ashley community housing?

*I love the job! Settling into Ashley community housing, familiarising myself with new tasks and bonding with the staff is all exciting. I like that no two days are the same and I enjoy learning new things which I can expect everyday throughout my apprenticeship.*

What other relevant experience do you have?

*I currently hold previous experience within the housing sector. I worked at Wolverhampton homes an ALMO to Wolverhampton City Council for 14 months. My role was to assist with the day to day administrative duties in the office. I built and maintained relationships with customers who mainly consisted of the hard to reach and BME community; I maintained a system to keep check on our annual target along with maintaining spreadsheets containing personal details of all our active customers. I was involved with the preparation of events, liaising with small business owners to help the community and along with these responsibilities, other duties undertaken were being responsible for minute taking (Team Meetings), organize and recruiting candidates for training, consultations and events and cross referencing end of quarter reports.*

What are your hobbies?

*I am a fan of photography; I see an image before I take a picture. I enjoy travelling and adding photos to my collection. I also like to walk a lot, listen to music and I'm interested in sports; particularly athletics.*

What would you tell someone who is thinking about doing an apprenticeship?

*I would tell them to go for it and stick to it. It's a great alternative to studying at college or university. Whilst studying towards a related qualification on day release one day a week (although you do have to continue college work in your own time) you get to work with experienced staff, gain skills specific to the area you would like to go into and you earn whilst you learn. There are endless benefits including a chance of securing full time employment upon completion of apprenticeship.*

Apart from your apprenticeship with Ashley community housing, what else are you involved in?

*In my spare time I have set up a voluntary gardening service in and around my neighborhood for disabled residents, lone parents or anybody who is unable to get out there and make their garden look presentable and part of a community. I gathered a few volunteers and we cut the grass, trim bushes/trees, clean the garden and most of all we talk to the customer, as we are young we want to gain trust from the older generation, promote a safe community and get to know our neighbors.*

How would you describe yourself?

*I would describe myself as enthusiastic, happy and always there to help. I always like to smile and I always like to laugh but at the same time I'm a hard working person who wants to work their way up the career ladder.*

How many cups of coffee do you have a day?

*I would guesstimate at least 6 cups of coffees a day. I'm a fan of Italian coffee and once you live on Italian coffee it's almost impossible to stop drinking. Maybe that's why I'm always wide awake!*

What are you most proud of?

*Out of 250 interviewees from across Wolverhampton 10 were selected including myself to take part in a Erasmus+ program which included studying the Italian language and then going to put that into practice in Italy for 5 weeks whilst getting a grasp of their culture. I am proud of this because I learned*

*a lot whilst I was there and the things I was able to do over there was not an opportunity that comes along every day.*