

## Employers urged to sign up

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EMPLOYERS can boost their chances of filling vacancies by signing up to a work academy programme.

Copeland Work and Skills Partnership runs sector-based academies to help unemployed people get the basic skills, experience and confidence they need to get back into work.

Featuring short training courses, mock interviews, work experience and support with applications, they are delivered in partnership with employers who have current or future vacancies. Employers who have taken part in previous academies have identified candidates for their company.

Lakeland Carers, which has a base in Millom, took part in a recent academy and recruited two of the candidates. Ray Mowat, Registered Manager, said: "Overall our involvement with the sector-based work academy programme has been both a positive and beneficial experience for our company, resulting in two candidates being offered employment with us."

The Work and Skills Partnership's activities are funded by Copeland Community Fund, and Copeland Council funds a member of staff to devise and deliver them.

Mike Starkie, Mayor of Copeland, said: "The sector-based work academies are an ideal way for employers to boost their recruitment drive.

"There is no cost to the employer and the Partnership is keen to work with employers in sectors such as adult social care, hospitality, childcare, manufacturing, retail, health, leisure or construction.

"It's a win-win situation, both for the employer involved in the academy and the individuals who can learn some potentially life-changing skills."

For more information contact Chris Pickles, Copeland's Work and Skills Programme Officer, on 01946 598326 or [chris.pickles@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:chris.pickles@copeland.gov.uk).



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