



Success Story  
Syvanna Siragusa

## Syvanna Siragusa – Learner Case Study

Syvanna started her career as an apprentice with Croydon Council, supported by Hawk Training, and was recently chosen to deliver a presentation on her experiences at the Apprenticeship Information Ambassador Network at London's City Hall.

Syvanna says, "After my travels in America had come to an end, I was really undecided on whether I wanted to continue to work full-time or to go back into education. I was encouraged to do an apprenticeship as it would mean that I would be getting the best of both worlds, as I learn on the job and gain a qualification whilst working full-time.

Whilst I was an apprentice I learnt a wide variety of new skills such as becoming more confident and being able to work with a wide variety of people.

**"Doing the Apprenticeship definitely opened by eyes to new occupations"**  
Syvanna Siragusa



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It also helped me to work more efficiently as my field of work required me to work as part of a team daily with people of all ages and levels within the organisation.

As an apprentice, I contributed positively towards the organisation by helping to frequently clear large volumes of work. Working in the planning department for Croydon Council came with its many challenges as we were always busy and up to our heads with work.

Doing the apprenticeship definitely opened my eyes to new occupations because before I became an apprentice, I didn't even know that the planning department existed or what kind of work they did. I now enjoy it and learn something new every single day.

After my apprenticeship, I managed to secure a full-time permanent roll in the Spatial Planning team and hope to progress further in the upcoming years.

I would highly recommend apprenticeships to all young people because there are a wide variety of apprenticeship vacancies available in many different fields of work. I want students to know that university is not the only option that you have after completing secondary school/sixth form. You could save the £36k in university fees and 4 years of further education by doing an apprenticeship. I know that society and maybe even your parents may be pressuring you into thinking that university is your only option, but it isn't."

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**Team Leader for Croydon Council,  
Charlie Fosset, said:**

"Syvanna is a shining example of how the apprenticeship scheme can be made successful from the point of view of both the Local Authority and the individual. Syvanna received training and mentoring for a year, and was able to experience working within an office environment. The reward for the hard work that she put in was a permanent job at the end of that period."



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