

CASE STUDY/

Apprentices are the best

Employer: Cox's of Torbay

Qualification: Apprenticeships in Vehicle Maintenance

A small family business Torbay based, established in 1957, Cox's pride themselves in serving and supporting their local communities. They do this by giving local people employment opportunities, using local goods and services and using local training providers. They are run by an ex- apprentice, have a service manager who also used the apprentice route and have employed four apprentices over the past five years. They have also engaged with local schools on the Young Apprenticeship Programme and provide work experience.

They have built a close working relationship with South Devon College who they use to source their learners as well as benefiting from an exchange of information with them and from exposure to new ideas which can prove to be very beneficial. They feel that the apprentices bring other real benefits to the business, helping to keep their whole workforce on their toes and aware of the keep training, everyone has learnt from the apprentices use of the modern diagnostic equipment available in the college, in particular those who haven't used it before.

Cox's intend to keep training apprentices even though they know that some will inevitably leave them along the way. As they say, these learners often do stay in contact and some have come back to work for them after a couple of years.

They see the future as being bright as they believe the opportunity to bring young people into the workplace at younger ages can only add further benefit to the employer.

