

# Supported Employment and FE: West Midlands project

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# The project

- LSC projects across the West Midlands
- Working to create the links between supported employment and LSC

# What we did

- Sessions for students
- Parents and carers
- Staff in colleges

# The links created.....

- Shropshire Council – Shrewsbury College, Telford College
- Remploy – Walsall College, Wolverhampton College
- Shelforce, Birmingham City Council – Birmingham College

# What we said

- Why work? Unemployment rates, individual benefits of work
- What is supported employment?
- Case examples
- How Enable can help – cv's, job applications, interviews, travel training, job coaching, monitoring and support
- Benefits

# Regional conference

- 70 people attended
- Equal numbers from FE and SE sectors
- Speakers Peter Little and YPLA

## What we learned

- Work with the supported employment sector to deliver the skills and knowledge to assist people into part-time and full-time employment.
- Develop partnerships with the wealth of supported employment agencies that have considerable knowledge and expertise in this area.

# Issues for supported employment and FE providers

- Partnership working works. But.....
  - Who does what?
  - Roles and responsibilities?
  - Avoiding duplication
  - Let's not reinvent the model
- Funding issues
  - Who pays for what and how?
  - Will the payments be realistic?



## Summary



- Progress has been slow so far
  - There needs to be dedicated core funding for FE and supported employment sectors to work together.
  - But currently, collaboration is patchy at best
  - We need a stronger central YPLA lead
  - Some confusion on commissioning
  - We are now starting to get information on the Foundation Learning Tier pathway