

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are well and have had a good week.

This week I am really pleased to share with you some of the exciting work the WME team have been working on to ensure we continue to support you and your teams across your **HR, OD and Transformation** services – details below are of a full 18 month program of events and development opportunities. Please do share and forward this to your relevant teams.

[New Blog Post #LoveYourHR](#)

I have now marked over 100 days at WME and when I joined the organisation, I set out 3 objectives for my first 90 days and my latest blog post reflects on progress against those. WME is your Regional Employers Organisation and owned by the 32 Local Authorities in the Region with a large number of associate members from our wider public sector family and I am keen that we are transparent and accountable to you about what we are doing, [you can read my latest blog here](#).

[West Midlands Challenge 2020](#)

I am pleased to announce the new date for our **West Midlands Challenge** – our immersive leadership development event – it will take place on the **30th April 2020 in central Birmingham**.

This year our West Midlands Challenge is open to colleagues from any organisation working in or for the public sector and we are specifically encouraging mixed partnership or geographic teams. The event is a great opportunity to support your own internal leadership development work and we have already seen how organisations are planning to hold ‘mini’ in-house challenges to help choose the team, others considering its use as part of a wider talent management program, others to kick start a new leadership program!

A flyer for the [event is available here](#) and the microsite for the challenge is here <http://westmidchallenge.org.uk/>

The team are keen to have a discussion with anyone considering entering a team to see how we can support you, so please contact Manny Sandhu on m.sandhu@wmemployers.org.uk to arrange a time for a call.

[West Midlands Apprenticeship Challenge 2020](#)

A first for the West Midlands, brought to you by WME! Our **Apprenticeship Challenge** will take place on the **29th April 2020 in central Birmingham**.

This event is open to apprentices at any level and we are hoping it will be a diverse and rich learning event for individuals, given them a chance to develop themselves in unique immersive day. We will be giving apprentices the chance to experience the opportunities, risks and challenges involved in delivering successful local government services. The Apprentice Challenge is primarily a learning and development event with a competitive edge. We are now open for bookings and inviting you to submit as many apprentices as you wish, and we will put them into a mix of teams from other councils on the day - a great way to build their network!

Postal address: PO Box 16725, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 9FH

Visitors: Sandwell Council House, 2nd Floor, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DB

T: 0121 569 2070 **E:** hub@wmemployers.org.uk **W:** www.wmemployers.org.uk

A flyer for [the event is available here](#) and if you wish to talk to one of the team about the event, please contact Polly Sharma on p.sharma@wmemployers.org.uk to arrange a call to discuss how your apprentices can be part of this fantastic event.

HR, OD & Transformation – FREE “HOT” Network Events for 2019 & 2020

During my first 90 days many of you shared with me that you wanted more opportunities to network. WME has a unique ability to convene and support these networks across the Region and I am pleased to announce details of a full programme of events for 2019/20 bringing together professionals from HR, OD and Transformation as a **HOT** network!

Our **HOT** Network will be a quarterly forum held in central Birmingham, with workshops and guest speakers. It is an open invite to any HR, OD or Transformation leader or practitioner working in the public sector in the West Midlands.

We want you to spend the day with us and to make it as easy as possible for you, we will create an agile **HOT** network so you can drop in to one or all or some of these events. We encourage you to use the venue as a space to hold a meeting or use the free WiFi to catch up on work.

We have four dates for you to put in the diary and details of how to book to secure your space on these great free network events is attached. The first event will take place on the **9th October 2020** in central Birmingham and you can [book now to secure your space here](#) – we do have limited spaces! Please do share this with the rest of your teams.

Inspire OD – Pilot Programme – Few places left

Our **Inspire OD programme** that is being delivered in partnership with the CIPD and subsidised by the LGA ‘kicks off’ on the **24th and 25th September, with a follow up day on the 5th November** – There are now limited places remaining at this discounted rate, so please do get members of your team booked on. [The full flyer for the event can be viewed here.](#)

We will be looking at holding a WME networking drink/evening meal in the evening for those that can attend the first cohort too.

New WME Director role out to advert

Further to my email last week, I have had a lot of interest in the new Director role at WME and I’m keen to keep sharing this across our networks as there is still a few weeks till the closing date - Details of the role can be [viewed here](#) and at our microsite www.wmethefuture.co.uk

Over coming weeks, I will be sharing with you details of our ‘Big Conversation’ on the future of WME.

If you have any questions or comments, please do let me know.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Davis BSc MSc FCIPD
Chief Executive
West Midlands