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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**Removing workplace barriers and inspiring Confident Futures**

A unique opportunity for employers to inspire the next generation, the [Confident Futures Skills Show](https://bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023) is Buckinghamshire's most exciting experiential careers event aimed at young people and career seekers with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or those facing barriers to entering the workforce.

As part of the [Confident Futures Skills Show](https://bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023), taking place on June 13th at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, [Buckinghamshire Business First](https://bbf.uk.com/) is hosting a workshop on [Becoming a Disability Confident Employer](https://bbf.uk.com/event/becoming-a-disability-confident-employer), designed to help businesses create a more inclusive workplace.

Marina Jackson from Buckinghamshire Skills Hub said: “People with disabilities, special educational needs or those facing barriers to entering the workforce represent a significant portion of the population. Creating an environment that is accommodating to their needs is not only the right thing to do, but it can also have many benefits for businesses. Studies have shown that companies that are more inclusive and diverse tend to be more innovative and profitable.”

During the workshop, businesses will learn about the steps they can take to become a disability confident employer, including understanding disability and the barriers that people with disabilities face, how to create an inclusive workplace culture, identifying and removing physical and attitudinal barriers, and recruiting and retaining employees with disabilities.

**more…**

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The workshop will also include plenty of opportunities for discussion and questions. Employers can book their place at [www.bbf.uk.com/event/becoming-a-disability-confident-employer](http://www.bbf.uk.com/event/becoming-a-disability-confident-employer).

In addition, businesses also have the opportunity to exhibit at the event. Playing a part in the Confident Futures Skills Show will help organisations raise their profile as a diverse and inclusive employer in the area. By exhibiting, businesses will have the opportunity to engage with over 300 SEND students from schools across Bucks. Free stands will be offered on a first-come first-serve basis, so it is recommended you book as soon as possible. For more details, visit [www.bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023](http://www.bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023).

This event is supported by Skill Up Bucks, a programme designed to help SME businesses in Buckinghamshire identify and nurture future talent by creating opportunities for people aged 17+ to meet and interact with employers. The programme is funded by the European Social Fund and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Confident Futures Skills Show takes place on June 13th at the Bowls Centre, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9PP. For further information, please visit [www.bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023](http://www.bbf.uk.com/event/confident-futures-skills-show-2023).

For extensive skills and careers information, please visit the Bucks Skills Hub website at [www.BucksSkillsHub.org](http://www.BucksSkillsHub.org) or contact one of the skills team at [info@BucksSkillsHub.org](mailto:info@BucksSkillsHub.org) or 01494

927130.

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Confident Futures Skills Show* *is aimed at young people and career seekers with special educational needs and disabilities or those facing barriers to entering the workforce.*

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Skills Hub**](https://bucksskillshub.org/) promotes and optimises links between the business community and education/training providers to enable young people and adults to gain valuable insight into career opportunities, and helps them develop the skills and qualifications they need to progress in the workplace at whatever stage of their career they are at.

The Bucks Skills Hub is managed by Buckinghamshire Business First and supported by Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Buckinghamshire Council and the Careers Enterprise Company.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Buckinghamshire Council. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

The [**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County. Formed in January 2012, the partnership balances a uniquely strong collective business voice with a cohesive elected local leadership. Coming together to engineer the conditions needed to drive forward business prosperity in the county and beyond, Bucks LEP recognises that an important part of this is to support education and skills providers and employers to ensure our young people have the right skills to meet the needs of the economy, including the growth sectors such as life-sciences, space, creative industries and advanced engineering. Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership funded the new [Bucks Skills Hub website](http://www.bucksskillshub.org/) as part of its Covid Recovery Programme.

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