

# How DVLA helps improve employability skills in the local community

Employability skills are the traits and talents that make you an attractive candidate for a job.

You can improve your employability skills through training and practical applications to give yourself an edge in the job market. As a large local employer, we wanted to see how we might help people in the local community with this. And so, our Employability Skills Programme (ESP) was born.

We began by surveying local groups to gain information about what we might do to help those who most need support, such as [CRISIS](#) and [Remploy](#). This information helped us understand how our staff could give expert help and advice on preparing people for work, developing their practical skills, and giving them confidence to become the workforce of tomorrow.

## Developing skills



A dedicated pool of Employability Skills Ambassadors from our staff were soon out in the community helping people with a range of activities. These included giving training sessions, conducting on-site tours, holding mock interviews and telephone tests. They have also represented DVLA at local employability or community events. One such event was the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) first Positive Action Event, providing information and opportunities for our BAME (Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic) customers across

Swansea Bay.

Not only does this benefit the community, it is also a fantastic development opportunity for our ambassadors. They are committed and enthusiastic people who have a passion for helping others. It's a chance for them to develop their skills in communication, presenting and so much more.

Our programme is now well established and has been a great success with requests for our support doubling in number since launch. We are proud to have achieved this with no budget, managing it with just our passion, commitment and time.

## **What's next for ESP?**

In addition to our regular networking meetings we will celebrate two years of supporting our local community with our external community groups and their clients. Our ambassadors also have a 'careers information' session lined up with a group of Year 9 pupils to talk about the skills and attributes DVLA as an employer looks for.

The success of this programme has made us stand out as an employer of choice in the local area. By working to improve skills in our local community we have given not only our staff a chance to develop but also shown that DVLA is a great place to work.

## **To find out more**

You can [read about what it's like to work at DVLA](#) and you can also [take a look at our latest vacancies on Civil Service jobs](#).

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# **British Embassy Bratislava: Joint statement of the diplomatic community on LGBTI rights**

Joint Statement

Bratislava, July 17, 2019

As Slovakia's international friends and partners, we join in celebrating LGBTI+ Pride and reaffirm our commitment to protecting and defending the human rights of all. The first ever Pride March in Banská Bystrica on June 29, along with Pride Marches in Bratislava on July 20 and in Košice on August 24, together with other Pride events, celebrate the important societal contributions of LGBTI+ persons and support respect for all. We hope that these events will continue to expand positive attitudes towards LGBTI+ family members, neighbors, colleagues, and friends.

Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights without distinction of any kind, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our governments have recognized this basic truth, and we stand firmly with the LGBTI+ community and the right for all persons to exercise their universal freedoms. We affirm, too, the principles of the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

We recognize the important contributions of LGBTI+ persons to society. We welcome efforts to secure the human rights of everyone in the Slovak Republic, including LGBTI+ persons, and we encourage government support to initiatives that promote tolerance in Slovak society. Everyone deserves a safe environment free from violence and harassment. Promoting equality is consistent with the international obligations of our governments. We encourage everyone to support and advance all human rights for all. An inclusive and diverse society based on equality, respect, and liberty benefits everyone.

Signatories:

Embassy of Argentina

Embassy of Australia

Embassy of Austria

Embassy of Belgium

Embassy of Bulgaria

Embassy of Canada

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus

Embassy of the Czech Republic

Embassy of Denmark

Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia

Embassy of Finland

Embassy of France

Embassy of Germany

Embassy of Greece

Embassy of Iceland

Embassy of Ireland

Embassy of the State of Israel

Embassy of Italy

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia

Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Embassy of the Republic of Malta

Embassy of Mexico

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Embassy of New Zealand

Embassy of Norway

Embassy of Portugal

Embassy of Romania

Embassy of the Republic of Serbia

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia

Embassy of Spain

Embassy of Sweden

Embassy of Switzerland

Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Embassy of the United States of America

Embassy of Uruguay

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# CMA publishes Annual Report 2018 to 2019

[The report](#) looks back on the work the CMA carried out during 2018/19, and highlights the tangible impact it has had.

As part of its focus over the past year, the CMA prioritised protecting vulnerable customers, investigated issues including the [supply of hydrocortisone tablets to the NHS](#), the [funeral sector](#), and [care homes contracts](#), and undertook [a programme of research](#) to better understand consumer vulnerability.

The CMA also tackled issues that directly impact everyday life. It reviewed and subsequently blocked the proposed merger between [Sainsbury's and Asda](#), finding that this deal would have led to increased prices for consumers. It responded to a super-complaint from Citizens Advice about the '[loyalty penalty](#)', announcing a package of urgent recommendations to tackle an issue that affects millions of consumers each year.

Digital markets were also a priority and the CMA worked to improve outcomes for consumers in markets as diverse as [secondary ticketing](#), [celebrity endorsements](#) and [online dating](#). It investigated a range of mergers in digital commerce. Following the CMA raising concerns about the [Experian and Clearscore](#) and [TopCashback and Quidco](#) mergers, both were abandoned. The [Paypal/iZettle](#) merger was investigated and cleared.

The CMA investigated markets which underpin and enable economic growth, building on its work in markets of central significance to a well-functioning economy. It reviewed the £1.6 trillion [investment consultancy and fiduciary management sector](#) ensuring that this sector works better for pension scheme members, and made a number of recommendations to improve the [statutory audit market](#).

Alongside its casework, the CMA focussed in 2018/19 on preparing to play a bigger role on the world stage following the UK's exit from the EU. It also developed a package of [proposed reforms](#) to competition and consumer protection law to respond to the challenges of the digital economy and declining confidence in market competition.

The CMA has a UK-wide remit with its main office in London and offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In May 2018, it opened an expanded office in Edinburgh, which has now grown to more than 40 staff; it also plans modest expansions in Belfast and Cardiff.

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# PM speech at Police Bravery Awards 2019 reception

Welcome everyone to this particularly special afternoon. It is a huge privilege to be hosting you all here ahead of tonight's event.

Nothing says more about our outstanding policemen and women than the everyday acts of heroism that we hear about at the Police Bravery Awards.

In my time as Prime Minister, and previously as Home Secretary, I have attended many police award ceremonies. I have also attended police memorials. I unveiled the memorial stone for PC Keith Palmer here at No10. And I have spoken to police chiefs and police constables up and down the country who have carried out extraordinary acts in the line of duty.

Almost all of them have responded to praise by saying: "I was simply doing my job."

Indeed – those were the words of those incredibly brave officers who rushed towards London Bridge two years ago as others fled the appalling terror attack.

Their courage and quick-thinking in the face of enormous danger doubtless saved many lives.

So if there is one thing I have learnt in my time in office, it is that doing your job is quite unlike doing any other.

Because it is not many of us that get up in the morning not knowing whether that day will bring regular duties on the beat or a confrontation with a violent criminal.

Not many of us get up not knowing whether someone will come at us with a weapon.

Not many of us get up not knowing whether that day we will have to try and save someone's life.

But that's what you face every day as you get up and do your jobs.

And you do so to serve and protect the public – and so today, on behalf of the entire country it is our turn to say thank you.

Today I know that policing isn't getting any easier.

You face huge challenges and increasingly complex crimes.

New technology is not only changing crime, but the way you fight crime.

And public expectations are rising.

In my time as Home Secretary I tried to make policing more efficient, more accountable and more effective in cutting crime.

Because police reform has always been about much more than simply making savings – it is about making policing work better for you, and for the public.

That's why we scrapped national targets and put operational control back where it belongs – with the police.

We've introduced schemes such as Direct Entry and Police Now, set up the College of Policing to drive up standards and establish an evidence base for what works in cutting crime.

In recognition of the hugely damaging consequences of organised crime across our entire society, I established the National Crime Agency to drive real change in the way we deal with this threat at home and abroad.

Today I know the police face an incredible pressure from knife crime and serious violence. Indeed, many of you here have had to deal with people wielding knives.

No one should have their life taken away or threatened by someone with a knife – and we simply can't accept a situation where young people are frightened of what they might face on the streets.

So we are backing you in pursuing offenders and taking weapons off the street.

We've tightened up the law on offensive weapons, made more money available, and set up a cross government task force dedicated to tackling serious violence.

Because it's not just about policing, it's actually about the whole of society – we all need to work together to deal with knife crime and serious violence.

And we recognise as part of that the importance of positive opportunities and alternatives for young people, so we are putting money into our Youth Endowment Fund and Youth Futures Foundation to support groups and projects that can really make a difference.

Only a few days ago I had representatives from some of those projects here in No10, talking about how they're helping young people to move away from a possible path of violence and crime.

But of none of these reforms would mean anything without you, and your colleagues up and down the country, on the frontline, keeping us safe.

In honouring you – we honour all our police officers.

You demonstrate the true meaning of public service.

You put yourselves on the line, time and time again, for the sake of others.

You are the reason why in this country we have the finest police officers in the world.

And I want to wish everyone here the very best of luck at tonight's awards.

These awards have firmly established they are a great policing institution – and I want to thank the Police Federation, who are celebrating their centenary this year, for championing the bravery of our police.

And on a personal note, I just want to say this. The Police Bravery Awards were my first ever reception as Prime Minister here at No10 – and today they are also to be my last.

And I can think of no better way to begin and end my time as Prime Minister than by standing among some of the country's finest and bravest policemen and women.

It has been an honour to host you here today.

Thank you for your incredible service.

Thank you for everything you do, day in and day out, to keep us all safe.

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## [UK Intervention on Gender and Men Engage Network](#)

1. I am delighted today to be taking on the Chairmanship of the Men Engage Network. I would like to thank Ambassador Benedejcic for his leadership since 2016, for his strong personal commitment to promoting gender equality – including raising the visibility of the network. And for increasing the spotlight on gender equality and the role the network can play in raising awareness on preventing and combating violence against women. Thank you.
2. I would like to make three key points.
3. First, it is the responsibility of everyone to build a culture that values difference. For us – as participating states and for the OSCE – to be the best we can be, requires galvanising the skills of a truly diverse force. Making the most of talent. And valuing people at all levels. Gender equality in all jobs is not only the right thing to do. It also benefits the organisations we work for. The onus is on all of us – men, women, Ambassadors, Directors, Heads of Mission, patrol leaders, heads of team, officers – to work to achieve true, tangible, sustainable gender equality.



This is not something that can be achieved tomorrow or an area where there is a silver bullet – but is a process which requires persistence.

4. Second, it is also the responsibility of all of us to develop a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is everyone's problem. We need to broaden the conversation, remove taboos and foster a safe space for staff in the OSCE and within our delegations to raise concerns, including through consistent messaging and action by senior leadership – Ambassadors, Heads of Institutions, and others.
5. Third, we need to recognise the benefits of full and effective participation of women in discussions about conflict, conflict resolution and reconstruction. Men and women have different experiences in times of war and different perspectives on peace and security, which broaden the set of issues discussed. The quality, success and sustainability of peace processes is improved by having the meaningful participation of women as well as men. That is a fact.
6. I look forward to working alongside the Secretary General, individuals currently in the Engage network, the OSCE Gender Section, the 12 female Ambassadors to the OSCE, and others within the OSCE.
7. A good place to start – and for the benefit of transparency – is to set out some steps we are committing to in the UK Delegation and me personally on the above areas. First, on gender equality – looking at all job specifications to ensure they are gender-sensitive and to see where there are opportunities to expand the applicant pool (including on job sharing), ensuring gender balanced interview panels for all our positions, and stopping recruitment processes if we do not have a sufficiently diverse pool of final candidates. Second, undertaking unconscious bias training and challenging ourselves to stop, reflect and change a default in how we do things. Third, encouraging the use of mentors for all staff. Fourth, on sexual harassment, to encourage a culture of calling it out – not just internally but also where we see this behaviour externally. Fifth, on sexual harassment, ensuring for those who have concerns with calling it out that there is a way of reporting and getting support without fear of repercussions. Sixth – on women, peace and security – ensuring UK-organised events have gender-balanced speaking panels regardless of the event in the OSCE. I will not speak on a panel that is male only. And seventh, to continue to work diligently to keep the focus on these issues.
8. I look forward to working with all of you, looking for ideas, best practice and tangible steps. Thank you.