

Apprenticeships at the East of England Co-op

Following a successful pilot, the largest independent retailer in the region, the East of England Co-op, are excited to be launching an Apprenticeship scheme across Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, to help develop and retain local talent.

Apprenticeships are being reformed, with the aim of making them a viable alternative to going to University. They've been simplified to improve the quality and quantity of Apprenticeships being delivered, whilst also providing greater autonomy to the employers themselves, enabling them to focus on the exact skills and knowledge required for the workforce of the future.

With a wide ranging family of businesses, the East of England Co-op has a number of opportunities for people to 'earn whilst they learn', through Apprenticeships in a number of areas from food retail and funeral services, to stone masonry.

Stephen Flurrie, Head of Learning and Development for the East of England Co-op said: "We want retail to be seen as somewhere you can start a successful career. Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to build confidence, learn new skills and obtain qualifications all whilst earning a wage.

"At the East of England Co-op we've designed our Apprenticeships to allow people to move-up or move on into other areas of our business on completion of their Apprenticeship, opening a vast number of doors and opportunities."

Apprenticeships are available to anyone aged from 16-64, and so are an opportunity for those looking for a potential career change too.

From May 2017 the way Apprenticeships are funded will change. The Government is introducing a new levy, which will see employers with an annual pay bill of over £3million pay into a central pot that will support the creation of 3 million Apprenticeships by 2020.

Stephen added: "East Anglia is a unique and vibrant place to live and work in. By attracting, developing and maintaining local talent now, we hope to have a highly skilled, well-motivated workforce for the future, both as a business and a region."

If you're interested in an Apprenticeship at the East of England Co-op and want to find out more visit www.eastofengland.coop/Apprenticeships

Jodi Adams, Team Manager Apprentice at East of England Co-op in Frinton: "It's good to know that I'm working towards getting a qualification and furthering my skills. I would highly recommend the Apprenticeship for others, it has allowed me to get hands-on experience and I've learnt a lot about the business."