

## Initiative Introduction

**Our future Derby** is a partnership project designed to introduce and engage primary school children in the changing world of work to enhance awareness, broaden horizons, raise aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to the children, their families and their teachers.

Through comprehensive engagement with the schools, teachers, parents/carers, and local businesses, along with a host of volunteers, a programme of different interactive activities is being delivered in schools to help reinforce and change long term behaviours.

## Volunteer Benefits

Being an **Our future Derby** volunteer not only supports the delivery of the activity programme but also brings so many other personal benefits, such as:

- Building your own personal presentation, communication, and leadership skills
- Increasing your confidence
- Learning new people skills
- Being challenged to do something out of your comfort zone
- Having fun and giving something back to society
- Help children by opening their eyes to their future possibilities

**Read here about a volunteer's experience.**



Volunteer

**Pete Smith & Rebecca Dermody-Simmons**

Company

**Efficiency East Midlands**

Industry sector

**Procurement Consortia**

## The Business

Efficiency East Midlands (EEM) is a non-profit organisation offering procurement solutions to public sector organisations, which bring about efficiency savings. It provides public sector bodies with a way of procuring goods and services and we have member organisations ranging across various sectors. Its priority is to support its members in their common goal, to provide efficiently-delivered and high quality products and services to the communities they serve. Since 2010, EEM and its members have worked together to deliver comprehensive yet simplified procurement solutions, which offer a wide range of compliant, competitive and high-quality products and services. Its vision is to develop a collaborative working approach, which delivers organisational, financial and social benefits.

## The Activity

EEM Chief Executive Pete Smith and Deputy Chief Executive Rebecca Dermody-Simmons were keen to sign up for the Our Future Derby project as a way of giving something back to the communities in which they operate. Both underwent volunteer training days before going into separate schools to take part in a number of different activities.

Rebecca took part in a 'What's My Line?' assembly, which saw youngsters ask questions to try and work out what she did for a living, while Pete went into the classroom to share his own personal story about leaving school with few qualifications, before starting a career in the building trade and branching into procurement, which led up to him setting up EEM in 2011.

## The Impact

Pete Smith said: "As a company, supporting the community is in our DNA, so we were delighted to get involved in this initiative.

"Being able to go into a school and talk to children about how we got into the positions we're in was a great thing to do.

"When I was younger, I wasn't good at school. I didn't like it, but I was able to show children, through my own story, that if you really want to do something and you put your mind to it, then you don't need to be the cleverest person to be able to achieve it.

"It's all about having belief and applying yourself properly, which was the message I tried to give."

## Get Involved

Would you like to get involved as a volunteer from the world of work and share your work experiences with our local children? We are looking for volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds in all forms of job roles.

Find out more at: [www.emc-dnl.co.uk/ourfuturederby](http://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/ourfuturederby)

Or register to volunteer at: [www.bit.ly/ourfuturederby](http://www.bit.ly/ourfuturederby)

This initiative is funded through the Department for Education's Opportunity Area Board, supported by Derby City Council and delivered in partnership with :

