



Darren

Group Engineer
Highways Depot, Headlands

Tell us about your job?

I am responsible for a Highways Operation Depot located in Headlands, the people who work there, the works that's completed, the whole process. There's around 65 of us who work in the depot both office and site based. I like to think of us as a big team who are responsible for repairing and maintaining the public highway, safely, to budget and to specification. We are the ones who ensure the drains are working. We keep the lights on when it gets dark. We build walls, put up signs and barriers. We repair and construct footways. Some of our work involves the regeneration of areas, like Dewsbury Railway Station Gateway that we are currently constructing. We fill potholes, repair kerbs, renew the lines on the road. We help keep the roads safe in the winter, carrying out grits and snow clearing. We help out the police and fire brigade. We carry out lots of different types of work on the highway. No two days are the same for me.

What makes you proud to work for Kirklees?

It's the people who work for us. Watching apprentices grow in confidence and knowledge. Helping in that process of growing our own. Witnessing apprentices take the same journey as I did, 26 years ago. Going to college, learning new skills, working as a team for a shared purpose. Whether that's building a wall, laying a kerb, producing a bill of materials or producing a CAD drawing. The satisfaction and self-confidence created by the support that both Kirklees provide and work colleagues/managers. I'm all about the people. It's not just apprentices but anyone who is willing to learn, with the correct attitude, solid team ethics and a positive outlook. That's what makes me proud!

What advice would you give to a new starter in Highways?

Be honest. Treat others as you want to be treated yourself. Aim high. Take pride in what you do. Be open minded.

Five words to describe your average day:

- Challenging.
- Rewarding
- Unexpected
- Motivating
- Enlightening.