



## **Bin men in Nuneaton and Bedworth do a lot more than collect waste – they act as a mobile neighbourhood watch**

Jamie Lewis, Assistant Waste Management Supervisor, at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has been recognised for the role he is doing with his team to support the community during the pandemic as part of West Midlands Employers (WME) #EverydayHeroes campaign.\*

Jamie and his team continue to put themselves on the frontline to keep essential services running, working harder than ever as residential waste increased when we went into lockdown and parked cars made it difficult to get up many streets.

The public are showing their appreciation. Jamie says, “Usually people put their bins out in the morning then come back from work and they’ve been emptied, just like magic! The lockdown means that residents have seen our crews doing their jobs. We started getting kids drawings left on the bins and notes of thanks.”

Jamie and his colleagues have been one step ahead on health and safety to make sure their team of eighty-six, who look after street cleaning, litter and fly-tipping are safe at work. Their safe working practices are essential in order to keep the workforce safe at all times, and added measures have been implemented to continue this throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

There’s another side to the service that’s becoming more valuable during the pandemic too. Jamie’s crews are also what he calls ‘a mobile neighbourhood watch.’ He says, “We spot if the bin isn’t out or the curtains aren’t open. We stand and talk to people from a safe distance, sometimes we might be the only contact people have – this social side of the service is even more important with people self-isolating and shielding.”

**Rebecca Davis, Chief Executive of West Midlands Employers, says,** “Jamie and his team have put themselves on the frontline to ensure the service continues and waste is collected throughout the pandemic. Waste collection teams have really been put to the test over the last few months so it is fantastic to see their efforts appreciated by residents.”

**Cllr Jill Sheppard, Portfolio Holder for Refuse, Cleansing and Central Services says,** “We are delighted that our waste management team have been recognised for their hard work during these difficult times. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are very proud of how they are handling the current situation, especially with more people being at home, as well as being that friendly face to our residents.”

\*Local authority improvement body WME, owned by [33 councils](#) across the West Midlands, launched the campaign this month to recognise #EverydayHeroes – council workers who are working around the clock to keep essential services running and keep us safe through the coronavirus crisis.

Anyone can nominate one or more local council heroes [here](#). West Midlands Employers will review nominations in partnership with the relevant council and we will share their stories via <https://wmheroes.co.uk/meet-your-heroes/>.

Ends

#### **For further information contact**

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#### **Notes to editors – About West Midlands Employers**

West Midland Employers (WME) is one of 9 independent regional employer organisations nationally.

WME is a not for profit membership organisation owned by the 33 West Midlands local authorities. We are led by an Elected Member Management Board representing the membership body with a Chief Executive leading the organisation. Chief Executive Rebecca Davis is available through media interviews through the contact details above.

WME’s vision is **“to advocate, build and champion people centred organisations for a resilient and diverse public sector workforce that benefits everyone in the**

**West Midlands”**. WME launched their new Strategic Plan 2020 -25 earlier this year <https://bit.ly/3aYsvHF> <http://www.wmemployers.org.uk/ourwork>

WME is playing a pivotal role in the Local Government response to the Covid-19 crisis and is providing daily support through their Covid-19 site (<https://wmeccovid19.org.uk/>), including provision of advice, innovative webinars, recruitment and resourcing and weekly bulletins [Pulse Extra bulletin](#)

WME also work in partnership with public and private sector organisations to design and deliver services on behalf of the 33 Councils in the Region, which span the employee lifecycle including: candidate attraction, recruitment, talent management, training and development, executive coaching and mentoring, leadership development, organisational design and restructuring, job evaluation, investigations, mediation and exit plans.