**Witness Testimony for Ethan Reeve**

I am the co-director of The Launch Group, based in Newcastle upon Tyne. We have a national footprint and currently deliver in twelve major cities around the UK stretching from Glasgow to Portsmouth. We offer a range of training programmes and qualifications covering: Administration, Customer Service, Hospitality, Aviation, IT, Contact Centre, Military and Rail sectors.

We deliver training and recruitment services in Key employability skills such as CV Writing, Interview Techniques and Recruitment Technologies. All of our training is employer-led and we work very closely with our employers to create a bespoke recruitment programme to give every single candidate the chance to succeed.

We now deliver across eleven sectors, including one of our long-established partners - BAE Systems supporting the delivery of The Princes Trust Get into Engineering and Administration - Movement to Work (MTW) programmes. In 2018/19 we have supported over a 1500 young people on our programmes and one individual who stood out from all the rest was Ethan Reeve who completed our Get into Engineering/Administration programme with BAE Systems at Samlesbury in Lancashire.

I feel Ethan is the benchmark for how a MtW pre-employment programme can turn someone’s life around. Ethan was selected for the programme and on day one, was a shy young man who clearly lacked confidence. 4 weeks later you had a confident balanced individual who had clear direction in his life with a firm desire to secure a career at BAE Systems. Given his own personal challenges and barriers to employment, it was inspiring to see him constantly push his own boundaries and place himself in situation out of his comfort zone. He was integral part of the group presentations and towards the conclusion of the programme, was often seen leading and supporting other members of his working group.

Ethan went on a programme journey that seemed to change his perception and was always so positive in his approach. Always polite and offering the Tutor help, Ethan is a clear example of someone that saw the opportunity he had and wasn’t going to let it go without giving it everything. Testament to his hard work, Ethan received outstanding feedback from his work placement host and was rewarded by being invited to the apprentice assessment day. Ethan was successful and was duly offered a two-year apprenticeship with BAE Systems based at the brand-new state of the art Academy for Skills and Knowledge at Samlesbury Lancashire and is now in the second year of his apprenticeship. Ethan has inspired me and other support staff as to why we all do this.

It is also worth adding that Ethan has recently attended a Youth Summit hosted by Movement to Work (MtW) at the Houses of Parliament, where he took part in a professional discussion with a group of senior business leaders. Ethan spoke wonderfully, with concise and eloquent feedback on his personal experience of the MtW scheme and how young people looking for opportunities view the jobs market. Having had the privilege of witnessing this young man’s journey from the start to the present day, it is extremely pleasing to see how he has taken the opportunity presented to him and is on his way to towards forging a long-term career in the engineering and defense sector.

Ethan is pictured below taking part in discussions at the MTW Youth Summit.

