

Evaluation Report:

Pathways to Law

Work Experience February 2026

“I now understand that in a law firm it’s not all posh and stuck up but rather relaxed and friendly. People are down to earth and easily approachable if you have questions. It built my curiosity and confidence”

Devonshires Solicitors



Student Feedback

We asked the students who took part in the work placements with Devonshires across the 3 offices this February, about their experience. The results of the survey were strongly positive. They highlighted that students found the experience interesting and beneficial, whilst they were able to walk away with improved core skills.

Let's hear from the students...



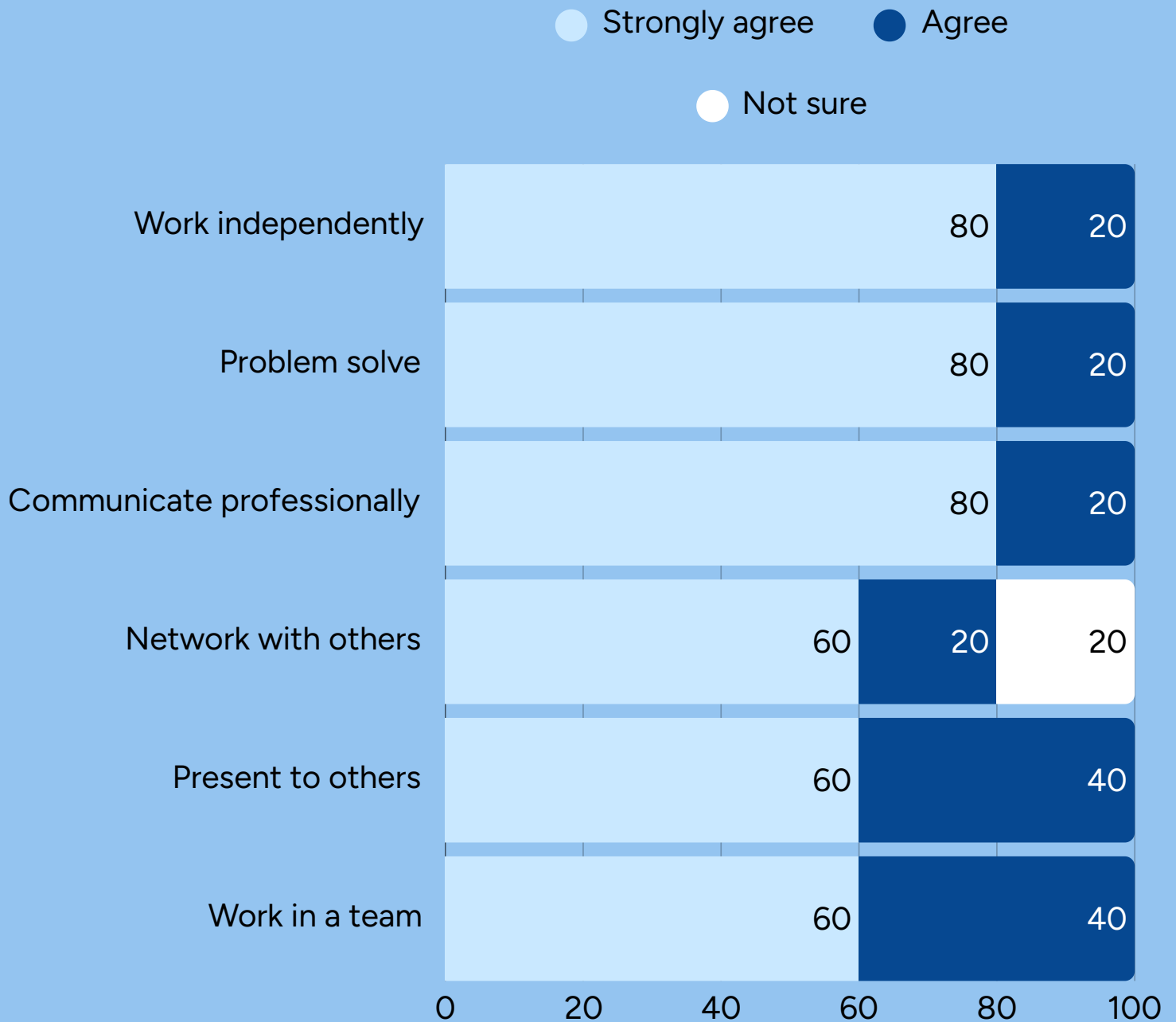
"I learnt about law firms and how they operate. I liked the law firm and related to the people who were with me"

"I learnt perseverance, self management and discipline"

"I developed my confidence, perseverance, communication skills and learnt how to construct professional emails"

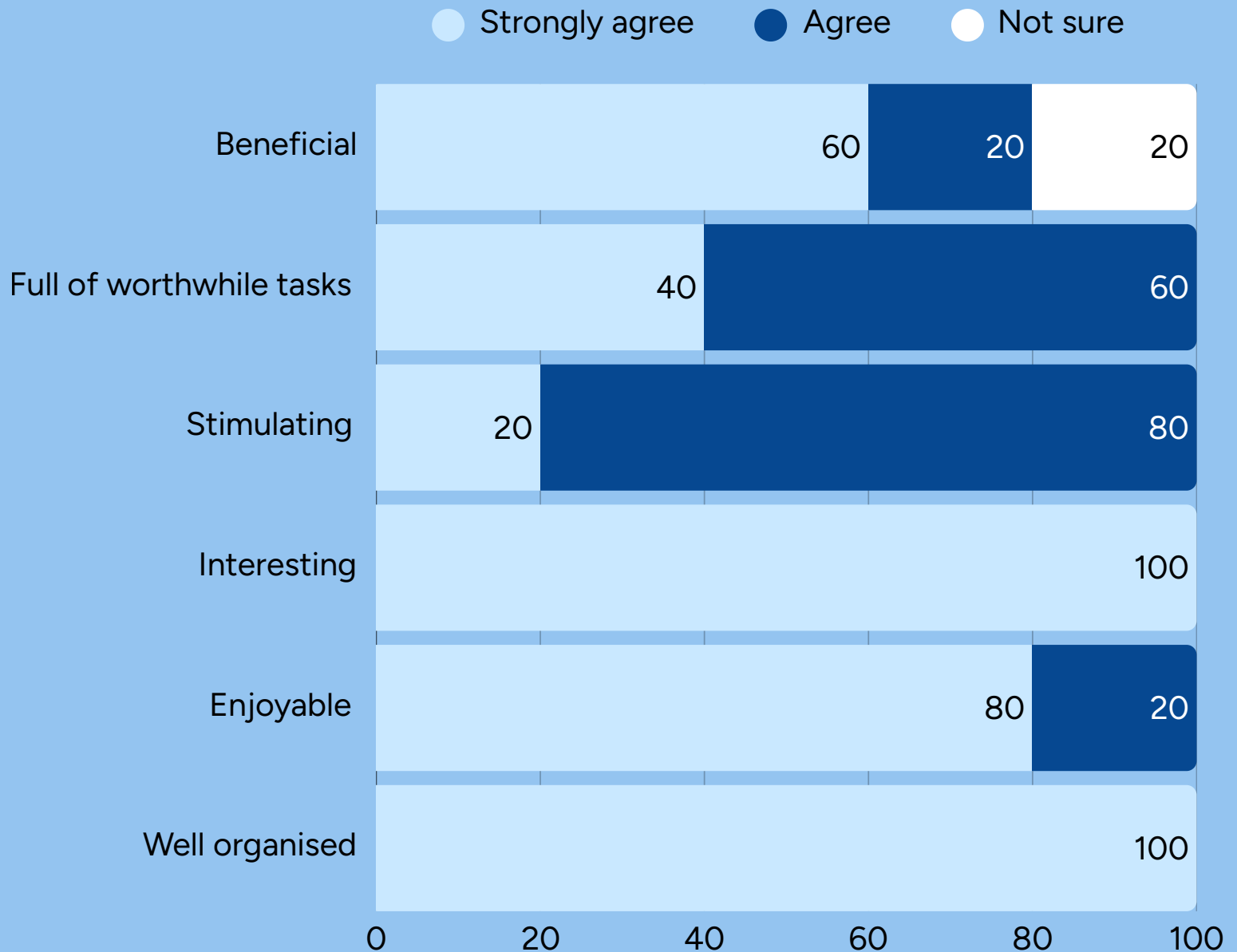
We asked students to rate their experience in several areas. Their anonymised responses are shown in the graphs below.

My work experience placement improved my ability to...



Students felt the experience was very positive in developing their core career skills. They particularly enhanced their ability to work independently, problem solve and communicate professionally (particularly over email). Students also found it improved their ability to present to others. In future there is scope to add in some activities for students to further practice their networking skills.

My work experience placement was...

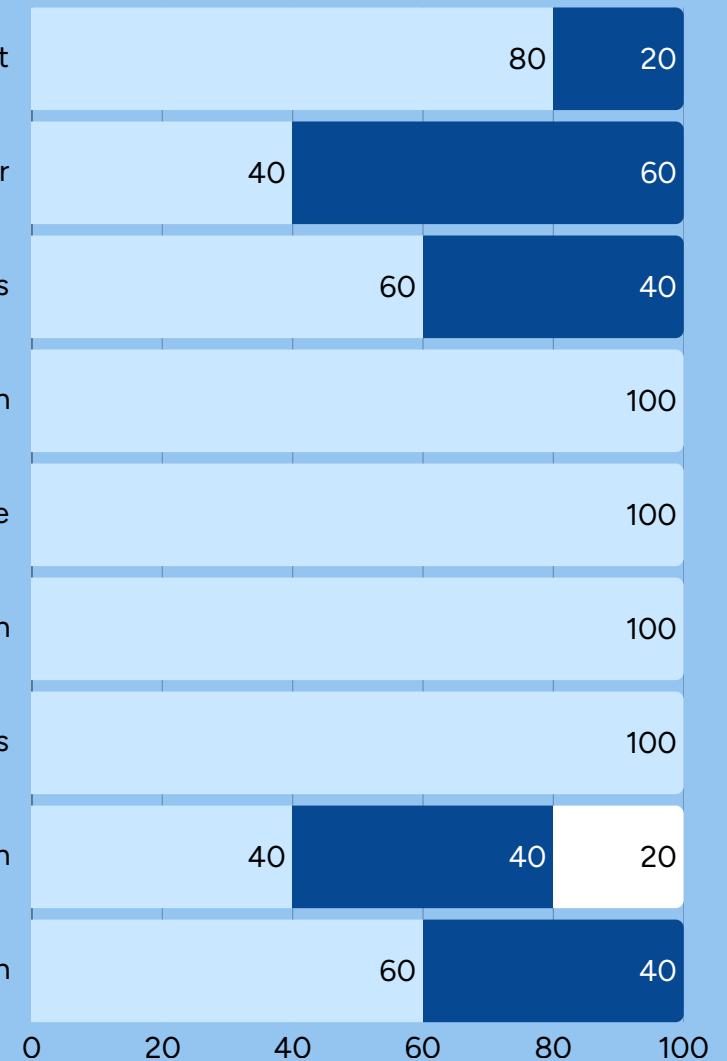


Students who submitted the survey, reported that the experience was very well organised and they liked the structure of the placement. Students commented on how welcoming the firm was, and they enjoyed working in this environment. The students also found the placement interesting, stimulating and full of worthwhile tasks (particularly the research and presentation activity).

Outcomes and benefits

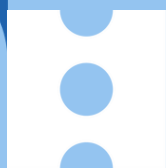
- I feel more confident in a professional environment
- I feel more like I belong in this career sector
- The placement made me more confident in applying to future roles
- The placement gave me a better understanding of the firm/ organisation
- The placement showed me what the day-to-day life in the role is like
- It has made me more likely to enter this profession
- It has made me more motivated to achieve my career goals
- I have a better understanding of the qualifications and skills needed to achieve a career in this profession
- I have a better understanding of the different careers within the profession and the routes in

● Strongly agree ● Agree
● Not sure





The outcomes and benefits students gained from this placement are overwhelmingly positive. Following the experience, all of the students who completed the survey are more likely to enter the legal profession and now feel more motivated to achieve their goals. All of the students left the placement with a better understanding of the firm and came away with a stronger sense of belonging in the sector and confidence in being able to navigate a corporate environment. Whilst the majority of students came away with a better understanding of the different careers and routes into the sector, there is scope to include further sessions on this so all students feel more confident in this area.



Student Feedback

We also asked students specific qualitative questions about their experience of the placement and a summary of their comments and insights is below.



What activities do you think worked well for your placement?

The research and presentation activity was a clear highlight for students. It helped develop their public speaking and communication skills, whilst also building confidence in a corporate setting. Many students came away feeling more comfortable presenting and enjoyed the research process.

Students enjoyed using case studies and real world scenarios. These activities showed them how law works in practice and helped deepen their understanding of the day-to-day life of a solicitor. Students particularly enjoyed drafting legal documents.

Students valued the opportunity to speak to a range of people from different departments within the firm. This helped them to understand how a law firm operates, and exposed them to areas of law they had not previously considered. Hearing from trainees, paralegals and more senior solicitors showed students the different routes into the sector, and made them more motivated to achieve their goals. Students also commented on how friendly and welcoming the firm was and came away with a stronger sense of belonging in the sector.

What activities do you think did not work so well for your work experience placement?

Overall, students enjoyed all of the activities, and had limited feedback in this area. Some students would have benefited from more support during the research activity; however, this did help them develop stronger independent working skills. Some students also suggested including some more challenging activities to further develop their problem solving skills.

“No one there is scary or rude and looks down on you because you are just doing work experience there. From the paralegals all the way to the founder of the office, everyone saw me as a part of the team and made sure I fit in”



Do you have any recommendations or ideas for improving placements or things you would like to see in the future?

Students only had a few suggestions for future improvement. Students suggested including more icebreakers to help them feel more comfortable within the group. Students enjoyed chatting with the solicitors and recommended including more networking activities.

Students also suggested including a visit to a court or a shadowing activity to further improve their understanding of the law in practice.