

Case Study

BUILDING A SOLID FUTURE

Student T worked three days a week for a year at a local charity and quickly became motivated and committed.

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T attended a specialist school but declined to attend from June 2009. He received one to one tuition but was poorly motivated and needed lots of encouragement to stay on task. T found it difficult to engage with his peers and became quite isolated.

Through the Basingstoke Consortium, T was invited to attend an interview at The Community Furniture Project in Basingstoke. He did well at his interview and although it was thought that T would only manage half a day (because of his lack of motivation and attention span), he agreed to attend for one day a week.

On the first day T was taken to his work placement and he reported back to his key worker that he really enjoyed it. He had been given new boots and could choose what he wanted for lunch! In fact, he was so keen that he took himself back the next day! Unfortunately, as only one day had been agreed, he had to be taken home. The Basingstoke Consortium managed to process the paperwork quickly and the following week T was able to attend for three days a week, which he has done for the last year, taking two buses to get to work, demonstrating his level of commitment.

The manager of the work placement was very impressed with T and suggested that he took a qualification in customer services, woodwork and warehousing.

T also attended a workplace hazard awareness course which he passed.

The placement has given T the opportunity to become part of the community. It has also helped his confidence and given him a better understanding of people with learning difficulties. One of the concerns T expressed about working at the Project was that there were a number of volunteer workers with disabilities. T has formed positive relationships with his work colleagues and has formed friendships with his peers that he has met while at work. The work placement has given T a structured week and it has also enabled T to continue with his one to one tuition and his education. T will now have some really useful qualifications that he can take into the workplace.

It is likely that T will be leaving the work placement at the end of June. The work placement manager has said that he has great admiration for T, who has worked very hard and has been a pleasure to have around. They have told T that they will furnish his new flat to repay him for the hard work that he has put in over the last year.