



Anna

Anna had just completed a degree in Psychology and English Literature at Liverpool Hope University when she came to Breakthrough. The career she wanted to follow required office skills. She asked her Employment Officer to find her a voluntary position where she could develop those routines so necessary in

that type of environment. At her interview with Breakthrough it was clear that Anna was interested in politics and so she was pleased when a placement was found at the charity UKCAP. Their focus is to campaign against poverty. They enable groups throughout the home nations to support projects which build skills and self belief.

Anna is finding the work fascinating and varied. As part of the job she has to contact people at both national and European level. The staff at UKCAP are supportive and friendly – and Anna is now competent and confident in the office skills she sought to master.

Kevin

Kevin had not worked for over four years when he came to Breakthrough. This had had a negative effect on his confidence and self esteem. The first task for Kevin's Employment Officer was to support him to regain a feeling of self worth.



Kevin began to feel more positive and dynamic. With Breakthrough's assistance, he applied for a Trainee Adviser post at the Citizens' Advice Bureau and was invited for an interview. Intensive interview practice with the Employment Team helped him to perform well at the interview. Kevin was successful and was offered the post.

"I was worried about coming off benefits, but now I am much better off financially – and I now help other people with their benefits".

Our quality service delivers results



Jonathan

Jonathan, 22, has a learning disability and has never had a paid job. He joined Breakthrough UK and worked with an Employment Officer to develop his skills in job searching, completing application forms, CV building and interview techniques. As a result of this support, Jonathan developed the self esteem and confidence to actively look for employment.

To support Jonathan in developing work related skills we secured a voluntary placement for him at Liverpool Women's Hospital. Here, Jonathan gained experience in a variety of office skills, becoming an integral part of the administration team. His enthusiasm and efficiency led to his placement being extended from half a day to four days a week.



Doing this kind of voluntary work is an ideal way for a client to understand the working environment while gaining new skills that will help to improve their employment prospects. Part of an Employment Officer's job is to find a placement which fits with the client's ambitions and interests. Placements can also encourage clients to consider alternative types of work they have not considered doing before.



We work closely with other agencies in the interests of our clients. In Jonathan's case we identified an opportunity through Mencap, who had set up a training scheme with Sainsbury's supermarkets. After a successful interview Jonathan was offered a twelve month paid training position as a Grocery Dispatcher. An Employment Officer supported Jonathan to settle into his new job and now he makes up orders, working as part of a team as well as independently. Jonathan takes pride in his work, turning up each day in a shirt and tie. His smartness has caught on, with other team members taking on this dress code after just a few weeks. We are sure that the experience and the new skills Jonathan is learning will help him achieve his future employment goals.

Liverpool Employment Team



Michael

Breakthrough's Employment Team found Michael a one day a week temporary voluntary placement at a company called Construction for Merseyside. The placement offered Michael the chance to gain experience, improve his confidence and learn new skills working within a

real office environment. Michael became a progressively more active member of the workforce who was admired for his dedication and efficiency in the tasks he was given.

On the last day of his placement, Michael received the good news that his recent interview with Liverpool City Council had been successful. Michael is now in a full time paid position as a Trainee Administrator. We are confident that the support he received from Breakthrough plus the experience he gained with Construction for Merseyside will benefit him in his new job. So as they say 'as one door closes, another one opens.'

Pauline

When she came to Breakthrough, Pauline said that she would like to follow a college course in dressmaking. Her Employment Officer arranged for her to enrol on a course in Fashion at Greenbank College, where she is progressing well.



With Breakthrough's support, Pauline also began a work trial at ASDA. She worked on the bakery counter and found the staff both helpful and supportive. After a probationary period Pauline was offered a paid position. She now works regularly at ASDA on Friday mornings. She particularly enjoys being part of the team and meeting customers.

Liverpool Employment Team



Thomas

Thomas was referred to Breakthrough by Jobcentre Plus. After discussion with his Employment Officer, Thomas decided that he would like to complete a catering course. One was found at Liverpool Community College and Thomas enrolled.

Thomas has gained qualifications in Catering and Hospitality. His Employment Officer arranged a placement for Thomas as a volunteer Kitchen Assistant at Neurosupport, where he serves refreshments to members of staff and the public.

Thomas says:

"The experience that I have with Breakthrough is very good. My Employment Officer set my placement up for me and is on hand whenever I need him. Breakthrough is a very unique service in comparison to other agencies I have been involved with and they are very supportive".

Terry

At his interview on joining Breakthrough, Terry explained that he had a keen interest in gardening and would like to become more proficient. His Employment Officer found Terry a voluntary gardening placement at Woodlands Hospice.



At first, Terry was involved in preparation work, clearing, weeding, digging and maintaining the grounds. Now he has moved onto summer planting and making up hanging baskets. Terry has started an NVQ in Horticulture and hopes that this qualification, together with his experience, will help him to move into paid work in the future.

Terry says:

"I love working at the hospice and making the gardens nice for the patients, visitors and staff to enjoy. This is very worthwhile work".