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Gavin back on board the work route thanks to Euro-funded job project

Made redundant last autumn, father-of-three Gavin Wesson, 31 from Top Valley in Nottingham had his confidence shattered as he had never been out of work before

Being dyslexic and needing to find a job in these tough times, Gavin's self esteem was hit again when he failed a written entrance test to become a bus driver for Nottingham City Transport.

Gavin's luck then changed when he was referred to a Euro-funded project, Skills for Jobs, run by Care Training East Midlands. His confidence was boosted by job search tips, CV writing and one-to-one advice.

Skills for Jobs is funded by almost £840,000 from the European Social Fund (ESF) 2007-13 and the Learning and Skills Council East Midlands. ESF is investing £376m overall to boost skills and jobs in the region, which is even more vital in this current economic climate.

Gavin explains,

"When my lorry driving work ended, I was suddenly struggling to financially support my young family which was something I wasn't use to.

"All my previous jobs had been gained by word of mouth, so I have never had to go for a formal interview before, never mind an entrance test. I was completely out of my comfort zone. The support I got from Care Training, and my adviser Jessica, was brilliant and gave me the confidence to try again for the bus driver job."

Gavin got the chance to re-take his entrance test – and achieved the second highest pass rate of the day. He started his bus driver training in June and is due to finish soon.

"The second time round I was far more confident and I did the test on coloured paper – which may sound a bit odd – but for me, it helped the words stand out and this made all the difference."

His adviser Jessica Grice said,

"We were all delighted when Gavin passed the entrance test – literally with flying colours - to get a permanent job. When I first met Gavin, he was obviously concerned by his redundancy and the current job market. We assessed his skills and enrolled him onto an adult literacy course and customer service training programme, to further help his bus driver application.

"We will also continue to support Gavin over the next few months and he's planning to enrol onto the NVQ level 2 in passenger carrying vehicle driving to further boost his skills and qualifications."

Gavin added,

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"The training was great, I really enjoyed being able to practice my customer skills with people in a similar position to me."

NOTES TO EDITORS

Photos of Gavin are available at www.coi.gsi.gov.uk or on the COI number below

Care Training East Midlands is a partly government funded training provider based in the City Centre of Nottingham. Working not only in Nottingham but in the whole of the East Midlands, delivering knowledge and skills needed to make a competitive workforce and improve people's lives through learning and development.

They can deliver NVQs in a wide range of subjects but are also a Learndirect centre with the ability to provide courses in various subjects such as Literacy, Numeracy and Computer Courses. We aim to provide all of our training fully funded.

For more information on the training provided by Care Training East Midlands contact the Course Enquiries team on 0115 9599 544.

The European Social Fund (ESF) programme for England 2007-2013 is investing £376m in the East Midlands.

More than 50 providers across the region are already offering over 90 projects designed to boost skills and job chances for individuals.

ESF will focus on the following priorities:

- Local communities – helping to cut unemployment, up-skilling communities and helping them to become more sustainable in the long term, particularly those who have lost their jobs because of the current economic downturn.
- Social minorities and excluded groups – helping long term unemployed, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, lone parents, the homeless, ex-offenders and people lacking the basic skills needed to get a job aim to develop a highly and appropriately skilled workforce.

ESF is managed by three co-financing organisations in the region – the Learning and Skills Council East Midlands, Department for Work and Pensions, and a Local Authorities Consortium (Lincolnshire County, Derby City, Derbyshire County and Leicester City councils). Government Office for the East Midlands oversees the programme.

For general information on ESF see <http://www.esf.gov.uk/>