



Leading learning and skills



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## **EURO-FUNDED PROJECT CARES ABOUT CUTTHORPE MAN'S CAREER**

A caring North Derbyshire man with learning disabilities is brightening up the social lives of the older community thanks to a Euro funded project.

Andrew Hughes, 24, who has lived in Cutthorpe near Chesterfield for most of his life, also hasn't let a knock to his confidence at a previous job get in the way of his ambitions to work in the care industry. After attending a Euro-funded training project, Andrew is now working part-time at the local Ash Croft Care Home\*, organising events to suit the needs of residents.

The project 'Step Up' is delivered by Ability, one of the many voluntary and community organisations who are offering Euro-funded youth programmes working alongside the Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium.

It is being funded as part of £211,180 from the European Social Fund 2007-13 (ESF) and the Learning and Skills Council East Midlands. It is helping young people like Andrew progress into jobs. ESF is investing £376 million overall to boost skills and jobs in the region.

With support from Ability staff, Andrew increased his confidence thanks to weekly job search sessions, which included both online and newspaper searches, CV writing and covering letters. He also completed a work placement two days per week at a day care centre supporting elderly service users with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Andrew said,

"The support I received from Ability was fantastic. I would recommend anyone in my position to contact them. They couldn't help me enough".

"I've been in my new job for over a month now and it's very varied. I feel very at home here – particular as my mum used to work at the Home".

Louise Crossley from Ability said,

"Andrew's confidence came on leaps and bounds when attending the job search sessions and took part in role play for interview techniques. He soon felt comfortable using the internet and local papers to look for job vacancies.

"He gained hands on work experience at the day centre. After a short period of time all staff saw an increase in his confidence as well as him using his own initiative.

“He was soon successful at getting through to interview stage for the role of events co-ordinator within the care home. When the interview was drawing closer, he was nervous and his confidence began to fade, so reassurance and support was needed – which seem to do the trick as he was successful!”

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

\* [The Home is part of Four Seasons Health Care Group](#)

Photographs of Andrew are available at COI News and PR or <http://nds.coi.gov.uk>

For further information about Derbyshire Learning and Development Consortium contact Heather Laven 01332 265964 or for more details about Ability, contact Louise Crossley 01246 231256

**The European Social Fund (ESF)** programme for England 2007-2013 is investing £376 million 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 focuses 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/> or [www.esf-works.com](http://www.esf-works.com)

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF ESF/ LSC BY COI NEWS AND PR. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Jo Sheppard 0115 852 4333**