



EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

Case Study



Leading learning and skills



Into work for people with disabilities

ESF Contractor:

Lancashire Colleges Consortium

Beneficiaries:

Local people with disabilities looking to find employment

Synopsis:

The project, run by Lancashire Colleges Consortium and delivered by Blackpool and the Fylde College helps local people with disabilities find and sustain employment by developing the skills they need to work, finding work placements and helping them live independently.

Eighteen-year-old Jennifer Woolford from Thornton-Cleveleys, who wants to work with animals or young children, is currently gaining valuable experience of the world of work as a general assistant at Farmer Parrs in Fleetwood as part of the "Into Work For People With Disabilities" project being run by Lancashire Colleges Consortium. The project, funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund and co-financed by the Learning Skills Council in Lancashire, is delivered by Blackpool and the Fylde College, Lancaster and Morecambe College and Skelmersdale College as part of the Lancashire Colleges Consortium.

The project helps local people with disabilities to find and sustain employment by exploring the job opportunities available, helping individuals develop the skills they need for both employment and independent living, working with local employers to find suitable work placements and providing support during that placement.

Jenny who originally joined Blackpool and the Fylde College's School of Access in September 2004 decided to join the 'Into Work' project after hearing of it from tutors who thought she might benefit from the additional skills that she would gain. Jenny thought it was a good idea to gain some more work experience particularly in one of her interested fields of work. She said,

"I joined the project so that I could get out and meet new people and have a chance to work with animals."

As well as undertaking the work placement as a general assistant at Farmer Parrs, where she cares for a variety of animals including goats, sheep, llamas,

horses and birds, Jenny is continuing with her studies at college which include Maths, English, IT and Art & Craft, with 3 days a week in college and an additional 1 day a week on placement.

Project co-ordinator at Blackpool and the Fylde College, Alison Moloney, commented

"Since joining the college in September 04 Jenny has proved she is committed to self-development and joining the project is helping her with her long term goals.

"Jenny is naturally sociable and gets on well with everyone at her work placement. Working as part of the team Jenny is confident and has shown a responsible approach to her duties caring for the animals."

As a result of working on this placement, Jenny is considering working with animals as a career choice. She has learnt where her strengths lie and is working hard to improve the areas where she feels she has weaknesses through continued study at Blackpool and the Fylde College School of Access.

For more information on this project, contact Anne-Marie Kneale at Blackpool and the Fylde College on telephone 01253 504114 or email akn@blackpool.ac.uk or Jon Piggott at Lancashire Colleges Consortium on 01695 52232 or jon.piggott@skelmersdale.ac.uk