



European Union
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Investing in jobs and skills

This project is funded by:



Leading learning and skills

Individual Case Study

Salford City College, Passport to Health and Social Care Employment

Project Overview

Delivered in the Greater Manchester area, 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' is funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan. The project has been set up to enable people who are long-term unemployed to gain new skills and secure employment in the Health and Social Care sector.

The contract is held by Stockport College with the project based at Salford City College operating in partnership with Salford Royal Hospital, Jobcentre Plus and care homes throughout Salford.

How it Works

The programme is supported by the NHS Academy, and Stockport College provide mentoring when the individuals are placed in either employment or volunteer placement roles. Individuals undertake confidence building and learning skills sessions, plus have on-going individual advice and guidance and careers advice sessions.

The five week course concludes in a guaranteed interview with Salford Royal Hospital and local care homes. In addition individuals are offered the opportunity to do work placements to gain an insight into the sort of roles they would like to work in.

Impact and Success

The project has continued to expand with the support of Salford Royal Hospital. As a result of this relationship, many individuals who had previously been unsuccessful in securing employment are now on the right path to securing a position at the hospital.

One successful candidate is 37-year-old Lynn McNicol from Eccles. Lynn is a single parent to a teenage son and she left school at 16 after years of bullying. For the past 20 years, Lynn has spent most of her life indoors, suffering from depression and agoraphobia. But in August 2008, after years of unsuccessful therapy, Lynn decided she needed to change her life and began to look for opportunities to help her regain her confidence with a view to one day getting a job.

In September 2008, Lynn joined the 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' project and hasn't looked back since. She says attending the course has changed her life and given her the opportunity to make up for the time she spent at home.

Lynn joined the course hoping to gain new confidence and the skills that would one day help her into employment. But she has exceeded her own expectations and following an interview where she scored the highest marks in her group, she secured a job as a clinical support worker, helping patients at Salford Royal Hospital.

Lynn said: "When I heard about the course I didn't think I'd be able to do it as my confidence was so low. But once I'd got over my nerves, I realised it was the best thing I've ever done; it's given me a new lease of life. I'm doing a job I love, I've found confidence I didn't know I had and have made lots of friends.

"I wouldn't have done this on my own, but the 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' project has made it possible. It's not just improved my life, but also my son's life. I'm no longer afraid to leave the house so I can take him places after school and we have a great time together. I thought it was a little too late in life to change but I'm so glad I made myself do it. Another bonus is because I'm earning my own money now, I don't have to rely on anyone else."

She added: "My family are really proud of me. They thought I was too stuck in my ways to change but I've proved them all wrong!"

As testament to her commitment and the support of her colleagues and tutors, Lynn was presented with the prestigious 'Getting Back to Work' award at the National Local Employment Partnership awards, held recently at a ceremony in London.

Lynn concludes: "A few years ago I could never have imagined leaving the house, never mind travelling to London and sightseeing. The 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' course has been amazing and I would encourage anyone who was in a similar position to me to follow in my footsteps."

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