



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

This project is funded by:



Leading learning and skills

Individual Case Study

Project: Skills for Jobs, Warrington Borough Council

Project Overview

The Skills for Jobs programme is managed by Warrington Borough Council and delivered across the borough by Warrington Disability Partnership and Warrington Collegiate.

The programme works with people over the age of 18, who are unemployed and have a skills gap which may be preventing them from gaining employment. It offers flexible, customised support to help individuals develop their skills and improve their chances of gaining sustainable employment.

Warrington Borough Council received funding for the programme totalling £245,490 from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan.

How it Works

Individuals are recruited onto the programme through a range of local stakeholders, delivery partners and the wider Skills for Jobs Strategic Partnership.

Participant Joanne White, 46, from Warrington was referred to the programme through JobCentre Plus while she was looking for work.

Due to ongoing back problems Joanne was having to rethink her career path. With a position in retail ruled out due to the requirement of spending long periods of time stood up, she decided to pursue a position in administration. She was put in touch with the Warrington Disability Partnership who helped Joanne prepare for potential

interviews and provided her with tips and advice about how to deal with any questions around her disability.

She also undertook a three day pre-employment course at Warrington Collegiate which covered tips and advice from how to write a CV to health and safety and body language guidelines.

Joanne soon secured temporary employment as a medical receptionist at her local medical centre. To help with the IT elements of her job, Joanne was put in touch with Learn Direct where she was able to complete two computer courses relevant to her administrative work.

Following her temporary employment, Joanne now has a permanent contract at Warrington General Hospital as a part-time Administrator.

Impact and Success

Joanne commented: "The Warrington Disability Partnership were excellent, they helped me look for employment and gave me the support I needed to find the right job for me.

"Through the Skills for Jobs programme I was able to access pre-employment training which helped to build my confidence and provided guidance around developing personal skills.

"I found it especially useful to be given guidance around possible interview questions about my disability. To be shown the best way to explain my capabilities to potential employers was something that really helped me and gave me more confidence in the interview.

"Having explained my health condition to my current employer I have been assured that I will be able to vary my duties so that I can contribute flexibly towards the job role's needs."

Ends

12 March 2010