

## **Preston's Steven Builds Himself a New Career**

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Former labourer Steven Lawrie has turned his back on the building site and is looking forward to a new career in health and social care. And he's so pleased with the way that training has helped him turn his life around that he has teamed up with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to encourage other Preston adults to follow in his footsteps.

Thirty five year old Steven, from Broadgate, has completed the Employability Skills Programme, a joint initiative between the LSC, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and Jobcentre Plus. The programme helps people who are out of work, by offering them a 'package' of learning, leading to the achievement of both basic language and numeracy skills, and qualifications that will help them secure and stay in a job..

After years of going from job to job as a general labourer, Steven is now looking forward to the exciting career prospects ahead of him, having studied for his Level 2 Adult Literacy and Adult Numeracy certificates (equivalent to GCSE grade A\*-C) at Winckley Street based training providers, Future Pathways.

He said "I felt I was never really getting anywhere working as a general labourer, I was constantly going from job-to-job with no real chance to develop. The Employability Skills Programme not only provided me with a great qualification to put on my CV, it also gave me a big confidence boost and the drive to progress with a career that really suited my skills."

Rosaleen Seed, Training Advisor at Future Pathways said: "Steven is very conscientious and has successfully achieved his Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy, as well as starting a job which will enable him to follow a promising career path.

“Many participants gain confidence through learning and make friends with other people that have decided to upgrade their skills. The positive vibe and motivation gained through learning paves the way to gaining qualifications and ultimately employment.”

Anne Gornall, Skills Development Director at the LSC North West concludes: “A lack of skills can mean people struggle to escape the cycle of unskilled jobs and periods of unemployment. It is important that individuals with limited skills have access to flexible training which equips them with the knowledge that employers value.

“The Employability Skills Programme is a great example of provision that is working to help people benefit through improving and developing their skills. There are a variety of learning options available to meet the needs and help fulfill the ambitions of adults that want to change career direction or get back to work.”

### **Ends**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

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