

Work Choice Newsletter

Issue 2 – July 2011

 **Azure**
charitable enterprises

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This edition is bursting with lots of good news stories...

- Job Clubs – CPA7
- Progressions
- Job Clubs – CPA8
- A client – a hero!
- A fond farewell
- Welcome to the team!

Module 1 – Job Clubs

CPA7



John was referred to Work Choice and started on the programme in December 2010. John has been out of work since 1995 after 24 years of employment; working with a range of employers starting as an Apprentice Ship Painter and finishing as Metal Worker. John has been attending our North Shields Job Club regularly; actively participating with all activities. With our support John has been successful in gaining a 6-week work experience placement at Wilkinson's at North Shields to help him update his skills. John is thrilled with this opportunity.

“

Well what can I say, I have made some friends, as well as looking for work. The staff have been most helpful. Alex and Chris are great there is nothing too big or small for them to help you with. It makes you try your best. Also it has made me more confident in anything I do. But the two lads got me a works trial at Wilkinson's I am there for six weeks so I am going to make the most of it. Thanks lads...

”

Module 1 – Job Clubs

CPA7

Craig, John, Sarah and Rebecca from the Morpeth job club have been taking part in interview preparation sessions as part of their module 1 activities.

Clients were involved in mock interviews where they participated in role play activities with staff unfamiliar to them so that they could gain confidence when facing a real interview situation.

All clients were given specific interview times and were asked to arrive at the session dressed as they would for an interview. Clients were given feedback on their performance during their interview which they can use in the future.



Chris Nash
Employment
Advisor and
mock interviewer
for the session

“

Everyone worked really well
and I found the whole
interview experience
inspirational.

”



Progressions

CPA7

In August 2006 Graeme started work for Dobbies Garden Centre as an Assistant Chef, supported by Azure. His main duties were vegetable preparation.

Over the years Graeme's line manager has supported him to try new tasks and duties and gradually Graeme gained more confidence and has undertaken a variety of training courses to develop his skills.

Graeme is now involved in a range of duties within the kitchen including the making of cakes and pastries; he is also pleased to be attending a night class where he is learning the art of sugar crafts to further enhance his cakes!

Graeme is proud of what he has achieved and due to his increased confidence is now happy to move in to open employment with Dobbies, without Azure's support.

“

I didn't think I'd ever be doing the things I'm doing now.

My time on the programme has been great. My confidence has improved and I've had fun too!

”



Graeme at work



Graeme's sugar craft

Module 1 – Job Clubs

CPA8

Anthony was referred to Work Choice in December 2010. In the past Anthony has had some work experience as a Greenkeeper and is keen to gain employment in this area.

Anthony has regularly attended job club sessions and has worked alongside our Recruitment Advisers to secure a work placement at Thorp Perrow, a woodland garden as a Gardening Assistant. His time at Thorp Perrow has helped Anthony to further develop his skills and has improved his confidence.



“

I love my time on placement and the support I have had from Azure has been great.

”

Paul was referred to Work Choice in November 2010 and Janette in January this year. Both Paul and Janette have had previous employment and were eager to gain work again. To update and further develop their skills they were keen to take up the opportunity of work placements at Coast & Country, a 'not for profit' local housing company in Redcar. Paul is in the purchasing department and Janette within the housing department.

Paul and Janette feel their placements have enabled them to review the skills they have and has boosted their self confidence.

“

We both love our placement; it's the break we needed to get us back into the work ethic.

”



A client – a hero!

CPA8

Darren was swift to react after a car smashed into a garden wall where a young girl was playing. Having heard the crash, Darren ran to see the wall starting to fall. He dashed to pick up the child and carry her to safety.

Darren is supported by Azure on the Work Choice programme and is employed by Asda working in their Middlesbrough store. To commend his actions Asda presented him with a gold award and a gift voucher.

This amazing story of bravery made it to print of Teesside's Evening Gazette back in April.

“

We are really proud of Darren reacting the way he did.
He did a great job.

”



Darren with supervisor Sue Davison

A fond farewell!

On 5th July, we said goodbye to Anne Hopwood who retired after 19 years loyal service to Azure. A good time was had by all as we shared Anne's celebrations at a BBQ organised with the help of some of Azure's learners. Staff and clients from various Azure departments and supported businesses came along to wish her well.



“

Anne will be missed by everyone and most of all by the clients who she supported so well over the years. We wish her well in her retirement.

”

Welcome to the team

As one chapter ends, a new one begins with Toni Fowles joining team Work Choice. Toni's role within the team is to support managers/supervisors within Supported Business to identify training and personal development goals for clients. Toni will also be working with Advisers to organise any training courses identified for Work Choice clients.



“

I'm looking forward to the client interaction this role will bring. I'm also pleased that we can offer a wider range of training to the clients on the programme.

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