

In partnership with



Department for
Work and Pensions



We are pleased to update you on our Work in Progress programme. To date:

- 15** Placements attended by clients
- 14** Clients have been/are on placement
- 1** Client has been on a taster day

Mandy's story



Manager Sarah with Mandy

One of the aims of our programme is to give every client the opportunity of a work placement.

Mandy has lots of previous work experience in a range of vocational areas including retail, cleaning and catering. However her last period of employment was some time ago.

During her initial appointment with her Adviser Mandy identified that her preferred type of work would be cleaning or retail, but would need assistance with understanding workplace behaviours, travel training, supported work placement and tailored job search.

Mandy started on the programme in October and over the following weeks worked with her Adviser to review her certificates and qualifications, update her CV, complete a basic skills assessment, undertake a Buzz Test, review travel routes and embark on a COSHH course.

It was felt the next step would be for Mandy to gain a work placement and Poundstretcher was approached. Azure has had positive links with this company and knew they offered our clients a good realistic placement experience. After an informal chat, Sarah, Manager of Mandy's local Poundstretcher store was happy to offer her the opportunity of a 4-week placement and Mandy started this placement in February.

Mandy's role involves stock replenishment and merchandising.

“ **I am enjoying the role. Thank you to Azure for helping me.** ”

We are pleased that your placement is going well Mandy, this will be a great addition to your CV!

Liam's story

Liam started on our programme back in November.

Liam has had a variety of work experiences from packing in a bed factory to volunteering in a food bank, from serving food to the elderly to being a shop assistant in a retail setting.

Whilst creating his Development Plan, Liam expressed that his preferred type of work would be either, retail, gardening or warehousing. As with all of our clients, Liam also participated in a Buzz Test, which reveals character behaviours.



Liam with manager Michael

Liam's Adviser, Brian Hunt came up with an idea for a possible placement for him; a role within Community Furniture Service; a charity that supports local communities by selling high quality second-hand furniture and electrical equipment at affordable prices, to individuals and families.

Azure has worked with Community Furniture Service over the last few years and know they provide a very supportive environment for our clients; offering a wide range of roles and tasks from which our clients gain valuable experience. We approached them and they were keen to meet Liam. After an informal chat and once identify checks had been carried out, Liam started a placement with them as a Drivers Mate/Warehouse Assistant.

Liam's role involves collection and deliveries to and from the warehouse. Liam reports that he is enjoying his placement and loves being out on the van delivering goods.

This placement matches Liam's personality traits extremely well; great at multi tasking, often working on many things at once and loves learning new things, as well as being full of enthusiasm and interested in the thinking behind an idea and looking at how things affect people.

“ **Liam has integrated very well into his role as drivers mate/warehouse assistant at Community Furniture Service. His application has been first class and is learning skills and a way of working which will put him in a prime position to enter the labour market, which with natural progression, I am confident will happen at some point.** ”

Michael, Manager at Community Furniture

Liam is enjoying it so much he is considering staying on as a volunteer after his placement has ended.

We're pleased it's going well for you Liam!

Training

To date our clients have gained qualifications and undertaken a range of training. Client CVs have been updated to reflect their achievements. Here is a sample of some of the training our clients have undertaken.

- COSHH interactive
- Food Safety level 1 interactive
- Workplace Safety interactive
- Operator Training Certificate – mobile elevating work platform, mobile vertical and mobile boom
- Manual Handling interactive
- Food Allergies interactive
- NCFE level 1 certificate in Warehousing and Storage
- NCFE level 2 certificate in Warehousing and Storage

Client feedback

Here is just a small selection of the feedback we have received from our clients.

- “ **Having someone to talk to** ”
- “ **Boost my confidence and talking about places I would be comfortable** ”
- “ **Helped me a lot because at the time I was diagnosed with depression, anxiety and Autism and I stayed at home. I am now managing to get out more to attend appointments and even go to football matches with my friend** ”
- “ **Finding me a work placement to increase my skills** ”
- “ **Very supportive** ”
- “ **Gives me confidence and motivates me to job search. Also built my confidence to apply for a driving licence and passport** ”

Feedback

We welcome feedback. If you'd like to share any comments about this provision, please email: tracey.summerbell@azure-charitable.co.uk

All the photographs and stories used in the production of this newsletter have been obtained with the full consent and permission of each client