



Newsletter

Issue 06 – May 2019



In partnership with



Department for Work and Pensions



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

26

Placements

5

Volunteering

1

Taster day

2

Job Starts

9

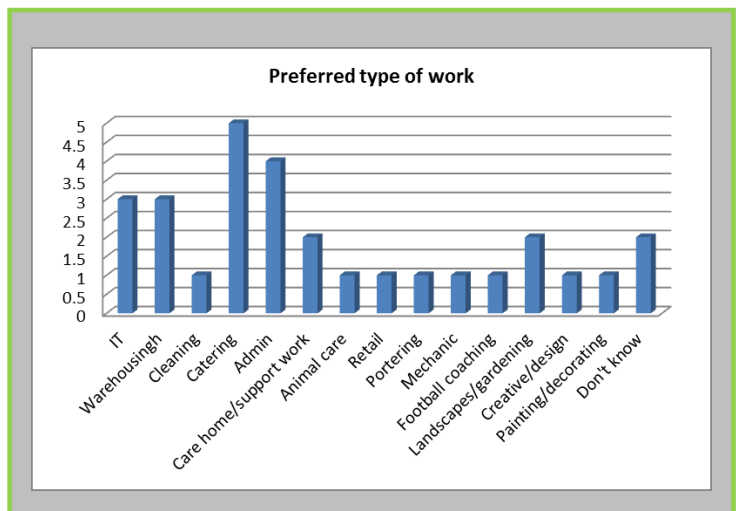
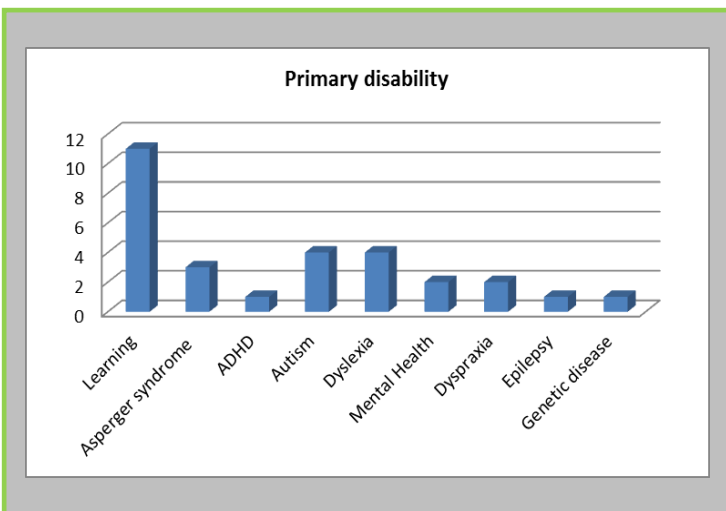
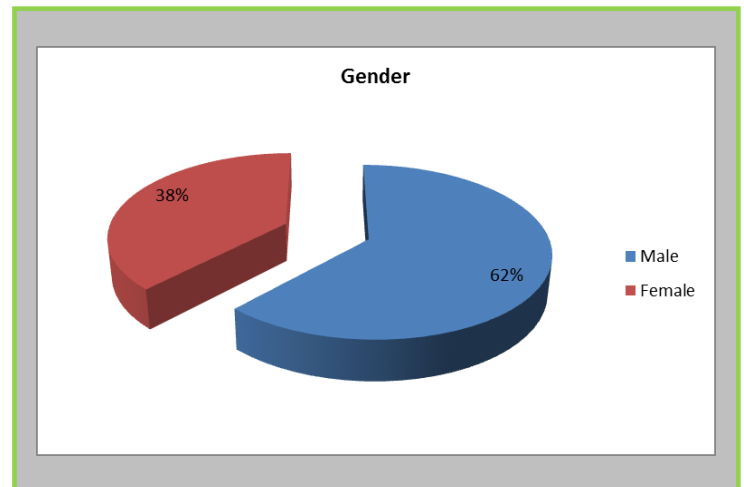
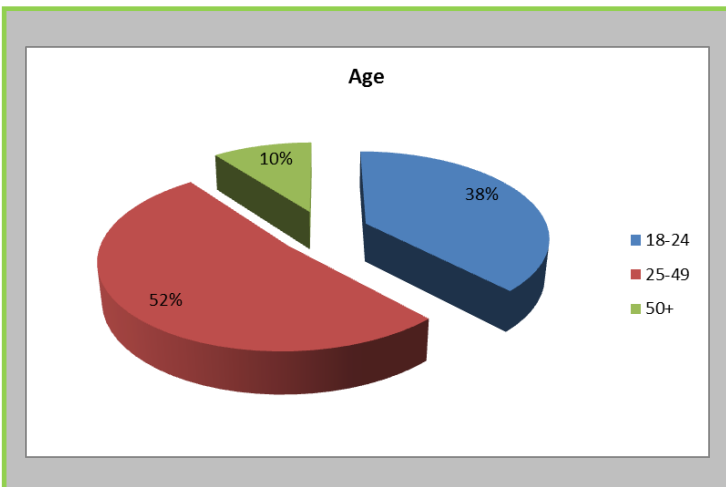
Completers

3

Leavers

Statistics Station

We currently have 28 clients on the programme as some are now completers! Of these current clients this is how they described themselves during initial appointments.



Eleanor's story

Eleanor started on our Work in Progress programme in November. During her initial appointment with her Adviser, Eleanor identified that her preferred type of work would be admin or data input, but would need support with careers advice, a supported work placement, job searching and job skills training.

Some weeks in to the programme, Eleanor expressed that she had changed her mind and was now interested in a gaining experience in a café environment.



Eleanor's personality traits are that she is a quiet and steady worker that pays attention to detail, great at making decisions and following plans and rules and likes to be able to use skills already learned. These traits would stand Eleanor in good stead for the type of role she was now interested in.

A placement at St Vincent's Blackfriars Centre was sourced and Eleanor started this opportunity in March. Eleanor's position was as Café Assistant and she attended this placement for two half days per week and participated in a range of tasks including assisting to make refreshments, clearing tables and taking orders. In preparation for this placement Brian supported Eleanor to undertake Level 1 Food Safety training, which she successfully passed.

Eleanor really enjoyed this experience, so much so that after the placement ended she has asked to stay on as a volunteer, which was greatly received!

“

**Eleanor has been given lots of opportunities.
It has expanded her world.**

”

Julia (Eleanor's Mother)

Well done Eleanor, we're all pleased your placement went so positively.

Client Feedback

We are receiving lots of positive comments from our clients about our delivery; here is just a small sample.

“

Tony has shown me to be more positive and supported me when I needed it most.

”

“

Azure has given me a greater understanding of my goals and aspirations, as I have lacked confidence, but I am regaining this.

”

“

I have become more positive and believe I have a better future ahead.

”

“

Azure continues to make me feel positive within myself and show me ways to be encouraged every day.

”

Completers

We are starting to see a number of our clients transition to being programme completers. It is wonderful to see the positive journey they have made. One of our completers has made a particularly strong impact on the team here at Azure. This is their story.

Upon commencing our Work in Progress programme and during the first few appointments, clients are encouraged to score several areas of their personal circumstances out of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent). At the start of the programme this particular client described themselves as follows:

Health & Wellbeing 6 Physical Health 5 Mental Health 4

This client actively engaged with the programme, undertook training, participated on a placement and is now volunteering.

Eight personal objectives were identified for this client and due to their hard work and with our support, this client achieved them all. At exit meetings clients are again encouraged to score the same circumstances. This is how the client described themselves at the end of their time on the programme. What more can we say, the rest speaks for itself!

Health & Wellbeing 9

“ **Happier, I have found somewhere to go and occupy myself.** ”

Physical Health 7

“ **I am more active, I go to the gym and I’m volunteering.** ”

Mental Health 8

“ **I’m happier, the work placement helped.** ”

A big THANK YOU!

We are working with some great employers who are hosting our clients and assisting them to achieve their goals. Thank you!



Allison's Outstanding Achievement



Allison started on Work in Progress in October. Allison had no work history or experience but identified during her initial appointment that her preferred type of work would be as a kitchen porter or cleaner. But would require support in a number of areas including careers advice, understanding workplace behaviours, a supported work placement, job search, job skills training and interview skills.

Like all of our clients, Allison participated in vocational profiling activities which included a Buzz Test. Allison's character traits were revealed as: being patient with people and details, brings up relevant facts, natural carer and likes to keep in mind other people's beliefs, values and strengths and a popular team member. These are good traits for the type of role Allison expressed an interest in.

Due to Allison having no information on which to construct a CV, Adviser Brian arranged for her to undertake some training to assist in the preparation of positively moving towards work. Allison successfully passed COSHH Interactive, Food Allergies Interactive and Food Safety Level 1 Interactive training. The next step was to source a placement for Allison.

A placement interview was set up for a cleaning role within a care home and Allison, with support from Brian, attended. During this appointment the host employer offered Allison the opportunity to shadow a member of their staff for a few hours. After this experience Allison realised this type of work environment was not for her. Although this didn't work out for Allison it proved to be a useful exercise overall.

Brian then offered Allison the opportunity of gaining some experience here at Azure in the role of cleaner to assist her in building up a CV. Allison was keen to give this a try and started this placement in February. Allison gained lots of experience in a variety of settings from our Garden Centre to Head Office.

Allison adapted extremely well to this new experience and feedback from her supervisor was very complementary as her confidence grew, she gained knowledge and learned new skills.

“ Azure has been very helpful. Starting on a work experience placement and now I'm part of the team! ”

In May Allison was offered a paid job at Azure and we are delighted to report that she has accepted the offer. This is an outstanding achievement for Allison.

“ Allison was very nervous when she started her placement, but over the weeks you could see her confidence increase. She is doing really well. ”

Sharon Stokoe (Allison's Manager at Azure)

Congratulations Allison, what a wonderful achievement! Well done.

Karl's journey to success

Karl was determined to be able to travel on his own; he knew this would unlock a number of opportunities for him. Travel training was identified as an objective during his initial appointment upon being referred to Work in Progress. Karl also expressed an interest in gaining more experience in catering and with the support of his Adviser Tony, Karl is achieving this.

To support Karl to achieve his ambition, Tony began travel training with him, this involved Tony and Karl discussing the travel plan, catching the bus together, assisting Karl to get familiar with the route and recognising landmarks/buildings as well as bus stops. As Karl's confidence grew, he was ready to travel the route independently.

Karl has an aspiration to progress within the catering industry and one day become chef. But he also has a dream to be a football coach; football being another passion of his.

Tony had already identified that our own Café Azure would be a great learning opportunity for Karl and would provide a sound work experience placement for him in a very supportive environment. Also a chance to build on existing experience Karl has within the industry. Café Azure is a 150 seat capacity café which gets very busy and has a bustling atmosphere. After an initial visit to the café and meeting Chef/manager Mark Long, Karl was keen to take up this opportunity. Karl started his placement in May, attending 3 days per week. Karl now travels on his own to Café Azure and has arrived on time for every shift. This placement has given Karl the opportunity to experience food preparation, cooking and cleaning. Karl has also been trained by the Mark in knife skills for food preparation.

To support Karl's dream, Tony is also assisting him on his journey to becoming a football coach. Tony accompanied Karl to a meeting with a representative of Newcastle United Foundation Coaching Team who suggested that the starting point is some volunteering with the club. Karl has started volunteering with Cramlington United under supervision to gain some experience. He has also submitted a DBS application, Karl is just waiting for this to be returned before progressing to the next stage with the Newcastle United Foundation.

With lots of hard work and effort by Karl, four objectives on his Development Plan have been achieved.

“ **Karl is very enthusiastic in his work and produces good results in the tasks he is given. Karl has also fitted in well with the team.** ”

Mark Long (Café Azure Chef/Manager)

This is a brilliant achievement Karl, not only taking a step towards a future career but towards your dream. Well done!

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

