



Communities for Work Case Study 4 – Mr M

When I first met with M his confidence was at an all-time low and he felt that he was no good or of any use to anyone, nor did he think he had any chance of getting a paid job. M had been out of work for over ten years as a result of a car accident leaving him with mobility issues and a degenerative spine condition that over time will mean that he will have to use a wheel chair permanently. M had been trying to rebuild his life and was actively attending community first courses to try and build up his confidence. After receiving support from Communities for Work, M has been offered paid work after being supported to become a volunteer with the same organisation for the last three months.

M had come from an engineering background and it was difficult for him to accept that he could not return to the career that he loved. Part of the support offered to him was to convince him that he still had a lot to offer regarding employment and that together we would work out a different career route. After discussing what he could do and not focusing on what he could not, we decided that an office based job would be something that he could pursue. M had already completed an administration placement and was awarded a certificate in level one administration, so we had something to work on.

I now had to find him an administration role that gave him some experience to build on and I was lucky to find the perfect employer for him. Previous to this he had sent off dozens of applications mainly to disability confident employers from which I had compiled a list, in the areas where he wanted to work. I also looked into the access to work funding so that we had all the information ready to approach an employer willing to hire M.

I was able to source a suitable volunteer opportunity for M at the Bethlehem Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr, a charity run in a community where people came to take part in a wide range of events. This placement was ideal for M and I knew that this would be a supportive environment which was just what he needed to help him build his confidence and to give him much needed admin experience. I also looked at suitable admin and business courses to combine with his experience to put him in a much better position of finding opportunities with an employer.

It was very apparent that M loved it there and that he felt proud to be doing something worthwhile again. When coming in for his appointments with me he happily chatted about the different systems that he was putting into place while working on reception. In particular, one system he had developed was being used to make sure that members using the gym at the centre were up to date in paying their fees. His self-esteem and self-worth were certainly on the up.

The centre manager says that M has become a great asset and that the centre could not do without him. As a result of this she has managed to secure some funding to be able to pay him as an employee. M is over the moon with this and is happy that he will be able to stay at the centre and get paid for the job that he has come to love. He has got his self-respect back and is delighted to say that he is no longer unemployed. Not only will he now be getting paid, the centre manager has said that they plan to offer him further training in customer service on a level 3 course.