



Case Study 2

Laura* was referred by Mansfield Job Centre in February 2017 as she needed support with literacy skills, breaking down of barriers and support to get into work.

At the initial registration, completion of My Journey Scale revealed participant has low confidence, self-belief and had difficulties managing feelings, dealing with issues and coping. She also revealed considerable health problems, despite the Job Centre now considering her fit for work.

One of her main barriers to gaining employment was the fact that she could not read or write. The school she attended considered it too difficult to teach her as she did not learn as quickly as the other children, so she was left to her own devices. She has attended adult literacy classes in the past that has helped a little but she is still unable to read or write.

We arranged for her to attend an Educational Psychological Assessment with a qualified Consultant Psychologist at a cost of £600 in order to obtain an official diagnosis as to why she was struggling with her literacy skills. She was accompanied to the assessment in order to provide support and also to receive direct feedback from the Psychologist.

The diagnosis showed that she experiences very substantial difficulties with basic academic skills and as such has a general learning disability with some traits of dyslexia. The team was also provided with details of how to support her using Common Sight Vocabulary which assists a person to recognise up to 20 common words by sight, without them being able to read the letters. The technique will be used during one to one meetings. We have also arranged for her to attend some specific literacy classes where experts can teach her appropriately, based on the assessment findings.

Laura is relieved to find out why she has struggled with her learning in the past and is looking forward to finally having the diagnosis required to move forwards.

She has now also secured employment through an organisation she volunteers for. She attended an interview with them and was successful. She commences part time work of 16 hours per week. The Building Better Opportunities project will continue to support her during her first few months of employment and with her literacy.

Additional:

Participant has now gained a second position undertaking kitchen work. Speaking to her about her experiences, she says she is 'loving it' and 'really proud to be back in work'. She is 'very thankful for all the support' she has received.

We have also supported her with her learning activities and confidence alongside the first three months of her employment.

Mansfield and Ashfield Towards Work Team.

* not participant's real name