



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Supported Employment Team Newsletter

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Supported Employment Team

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We Are: part of the council's Adult Social Care Services.

We give time-limited employment advice, coaching and support to people who have disabilities and long-term health conditions.

With our help people: develop job skills; search for voluntary or paid work; and overcome some of the difficulties that can be experienced in the workplace. The skills learnt and opportunities gained have long-lasting positive effects on all aspects of one's life.

Royal Mail Employee Supported to "Get Back On Track"

Michael has worked for Royal Mail for over 20 years. In 2013 his marriage broke down, he had a shoulder injury and ended up "in a very dark place" and off work on long-term sickness. Michael's learning disability and his mental health issues meant he was struggling to cope; had begun self harming; and contemplated suicide.

Michael was in touch with Mental Health services, his union, housing support and the community safety team. The often conflicting advice he received added to his distress. "There were so many people giving me advice I couldn't see what the best way forward was. When the Supported Employment Team got involved; they helped me see through this".

His Employment Officer helped Michael realise that keeping his job was a priority and they came up with a plan to get his life back on track. They agreed 3 goals for the coming year:

- Get back to work - on a phased return
- Move out of his mothers house - to give them both space to manage their own lives
- Investigate medical treatment for his shoulder

Michael is now back at work, has an appointment coming at the hospital to assess his shoulder and has moved into temporary housing while waiting for something more suitable to become available.

"I don't think I would have stuck at it all if it wasn't for [The Employment Officer]; I was finding it hard to move forward but now I feel I have the confidence to come back up"

You Said—We Did

Thank you to all our clients who received and returned customer satisfaction surveys this year. Some of the things you told us are:

- 90% are satisfied or happy with the Supported Employment Team
- 97% feel encouraged to do things for themselves

" My Supported Employment Officer has made a lot of progress very quickly."

One theme that came up was that some people were not clear how much time they could expect to spend with their employment officer or how frequent their contact should be. To make expectations clearer we have produced a series of 'fact sheets' to help our clients and prospective clients understand what to expect from us.

Reminder: The minimum wage increased recently. If you receive benefits and your wages have changed you must inform the Job Centre about the change to your wages, even if the change is because of a national change.

Work Experience With Symonds

Sam's work experience at Sainsbury's left him wanting to further develop his retail work skills. The Symonds group, in partnership with the British Association Of Supported Employment now offer work placements as Trolley operatives. Last year Sam took advantage of this offer and was the first person in the UK to complete a placement with the firm. His Manager, Gary Bardey, was impressed with Sam's work and hired Sam at Christmas time to do some paid temporary work during the busy season. Sam is hoping that he will be able to return to work for the team again this Christmas.



Sam and Gary at the Symonds group.

Getting help from the Supported Employment Team

People who receive adult social care services funded by Brighton & Hove City Council can be referred directly to the Supported Employment Team.

People who are not already in receipt of adult social care services from this council should contact Adult Social Care Access Point (01273 295 555) for an assessment of eligibility.