

Gary Fuller

“Getting back into work”

Care Assistant, Exemplar Health Care, Rotherham

Gary:

I was a single parent. I had been on benefits for about 8 or 9 years.

Keely Rowley, Home Manager, Lonnen Grove:

People that aren't working, they become very disillusioned, they believe that they are never going to get back into work, they struggle with getting references.

Gary:

I did actually go down to the Jobcentre to see what options I had got open to me. It were my Claimant Adviser who were Debbie Rogers. She actually suggested Exemplar course and she put my name through, and then I was accepted. I did my week's induction. I got my placement in Lonnen Grove.

Keely:

I don't believe when he first came that he thought he would be working in care but he actually took to it straight away and is a perfect example of how somebody can totally change careers, and it's not the end of the road when you've not worked for a while.

Gary:

It is a career yeah, because through Exemplar I'm going to get all different NVQ's. I'm actually going to go onto a course Understanding Mental Health Issues. So it's all building up for me.

Keely

We've come to realise that the people that aren't currently working, once they come into employment they've got a lot of pride in what they do, they're so enthusiastic about actually returning to work and when they realise they're getting support from us as employers but the Jobcentre as well, both financially and supported through childcare costs, travel costs and additional training grants, then they come to realise that they get time to adjust coming back into the workplace.

Gary:

I'm getting extra money now, and extra benefits. My confidence... I know me confidence is gaining every day. Me self esteem since I've been working, I know it's going through roof, I would definitely advise 'get back into work'. Go to the Jobcentre. See what options you have got.