

Upskill Shropshire

Kickstart Case Study- Meet Ben Clayton



Ben is a Kickstart Business Development Officer with our Enable Team

What is your role and how has it been so far?

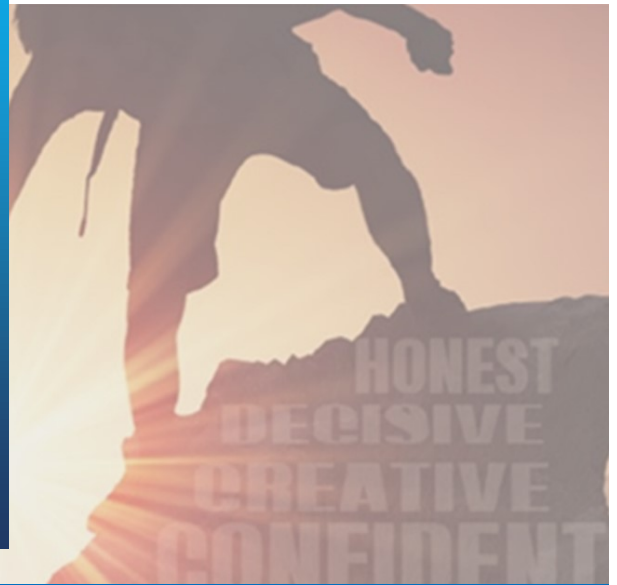
The main tasks I deal with in my role is to schedule meetings to set up initial assessments and vocational profiles and support the team with people's job searches and if a person manages to get paid employment or short term employment the Enable Team will help support them during the first few months of their placement. I have recently started a new role with the Telford team which has changed the focus of my job away from people with disabilities. The role has been brilliant for me so far and is exactly what I wanted. Everyone in the team has been really helpful and very approachable.

What is the main employability skill you have developed so far?

Self management, I have never had a role before this one where I wasn't strictly managed, but this has been completely different. I have had to be self dependant, although I can always ask my team if I am unsure, but I have learnt to be confident with my decision making and to have faith in my work. So, this role has taught me to be independent and confident.



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Do you like the concept of the Kickstart Scheme?

It is great for getting you a step on the working ladder. Even if a job doesn't come at the end of the role you will still benefit from the skills you've developed and the experience you've gained. I have learnt a many transferable skills that I could take into an internal role with the Council or an external role after the end of the 6 months. My employability prospects have gone up by 100%.

How has the Kickstart scheme impacted your career development?

It has given me a sense of direction; after I finished university I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but this has allowed me to get a foot in the door in an area of work that interests me, so, it has given me a clear direction for my career path. The role has also gained me new relationships with people in my team and my line manager and has really helped my networking.

Would you recommend doing a Kickstart to others?

Absolutely, if you are stuck looking for work as I was and sending out a lot of applications and not hearing anything back the Kickstart scheme is a brilliant way for young people to be able to secure a role. This will help their development and give them crucial experience that will help in the future.

Do you have any tips/advice for future Kickstarters?

Learn as much as you can and try to be as helpful as possible for the 6 months and you will be surprised how much you can grow and enhance your employability skills in that time. Also don't be afraid to ask questions as I haven't found anybody in my team or the organisation who hasn't tried to help me with any queries or work I send them.