



PaCE Good News Story Template

Name of PaCE Operation - Priority 1: East Wales

1. Summary

Single parent to 3 children ages from 18 to 4 years old. Participant had worked for 20 years in local factory until the tragic death of his wife. He has not worked for the last 4 years.

2. Background

I Met the participant in Wrexham Jobcentre while he was attending a mandatory appointment. The JCP Work Coach introduced me to him as they thought PaCE would be able to support him with his next steps towards work. I arranged to carry out a home visit with him later that week to try and accommodate his childcare responsibilities.

3. The Engagement

I Met with the participant in his home and quickly assessed his situation. He had been a lone parent for 4 years since the sudden and tragic death of his wife. His youngest child was only 8 months old at the time so he therefore had to leave his job of 20 years to care for his children. After we spoke for a while it became apparent that he had no idea what he wanted to do as he had only ever known factory work. He felt that this line of work was no longer suitable as the jobs in the area were mainly shift hours and he realised this was no longer possible when it came to looking after his children. We discussed his transferable skills and other career options that might be available in the local labour market. Over his time out of work together with the circumstances of losing his wife it was obvious that he had lost all confidence. To help start and get him back into social environments I suggested that we meet at the local library next and encouraged him to join me at the Job Club there the following Friday. When we met at the Job Club I discussed with him the possibility of using volunteering as a way of reintroducing the world of work and over time we discussed various opportunities in the area. A local hospice had opened a shop in the town centre and although he was hesitant at first he agreed to call in and collect an application form. He went straight there and got a form to complete and in his own words said to me *"I cannot believe I just did that it took everything I had to just walk in the shop"*. I spent time with him completing the form and giving him some coaching on how to undertake an interview. After submitting his application, he was offered 2 days volunteering per week.



Outcome

He is still volunteering and loves every minute of it. His confidence has greatly improved and at our last meeting he told me that he now feels it's time to look for paid work, so we are now focussing on local paid employment opportunities.

Additional information

He has recently attended a COSHH course via ACT.

Good Practices

Being able to get the participant to engage in volunteering has helped him increase his confidence and self-worth. It has introduced him back into the world of work and given him the ability to go out and meet and mix with new people once again.

Name: Vikki Speakman

Area: Wrexham

Contact details: 07920502790. Vikki.speakman@dwp.gov.uk