

Daniel's Story

Daniel* is a 47 year old man who lives in Bristol. Daniel lives in residential care home and has two to one support from a local provider.

Whilst developing his Person Centred Plan and thinking about how Daniel could be supported to work, his support team realised that one thing Daniel really liked to do was to tidy the plastic bottles up at his care home and recycle them. This led to a small idea about setting up a recycling service.

What Happened Next

Contact was made with the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities in order to get some business advice and some help with moving this idea forward. After some discussions about test trading – which means people can still get their benefits while testing out their business – a leaflet was designed offering a collection and recycling service. It was delivered around his local community. Although the area has a recycling scheme, there is no plastic collection. People must go to bottle banks but this usually means storing a pile of empty milk bottles somewhere first.

There was a lot of interest, and very quickly a small round was formed for Daniel.

Daniel is supported to collect and recycle bottles from his local community. He makes a small charge for the service. In doing so he has been supported to develop his own small business, providing an employment opportunity for someone who was seen as unlikely to work.

Outcomes and Impact

As another of Daniel's passions is to travel and experience trains and buses, he was supported to enjoy a weekend trip to London, taking part in the full range of tourist activities and enjoying a break that he had never had before.

The In Business programme has supported Daniel to develop a business centred around his skills and interests, that meets a local community need and that gives him a chance to enjoy the feeling of spending his hard earned wages.

*Name has been changed