

Lindsay Kinloch's Story

Hi! My name is Lindsay Kinloch. In March 2009 I went to a Conference run by Values into Action Scotland where I took part in a creative writing workshop. This is where I wrote the story of my career success so far. I would like to share it with other people who might be feeling like there are no great jobs out there for people with learning difficulties. I really want people to know that there is hope of finding a good job with decent pay where our talents and skills are valued and respected. So please read on...

I work for The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability as a co-trainer. I work in the company office in Glasgow. The company raises awareness about what people with learning disabilities want. They do this by offering advice, training and information.

My job coach told me about the vacancy and I applied. It is important that you get the right help to find work. I found out about a supported employment service by going to an event where the people from the service had a stand. This was a really important step for me because if I had not made that contact I may never have found out about the job.

I sent in an application that was good enough to get me invited along for an interview. My interview with The Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability was great. There were group exercises that gave me a chance to show the skills I had to offer. I was then asked to come into the office and do some tasks that would be part of the role. I also spoke to the staff about the job and told them why I wanted it.

I enjoy my job very much now for many reasons. I have a job coach whose job it is to support me with the tasks I need help with. I also have one named person in my team who I know I can go to for help. It is part

of her job to help me if I need it. The other members of the team also lend a hand if this person is not around. While I do a good job and manage many tasks on my own it is very important for me to know that if I ever do need help the people I work with will be friendly and willing to support me. Knowing this has helped me make good friends at work and feel part of the team. I really enjoy tea breaks, lunch times and nights out because of this!

If I had to list the things I do not like about my job I would say I do not like it when I have work to do that I have not been able to talk about first. I also did not like sticking labels and bar codes onto our library books because it got boring. I do not like typing up lots of flipcharts because they are too big to fit onto my desk.

On the whole I would say I am very happy in my job and I enjoy most of the work I do. I really like training people and putting together training packs. I am someone who gets a lot out of being given a challenge. After training sessions I like to hear and read the feedback to find out what people thought about it. I also like meeting lots of different people and I get the chance to do this a lot in my job. I enjoy working because my job is creative and there is a lot of variety, both in the tasks I have to do and in all the different people I get to meet.

I hope you enjoyed reading about my job and feel encouraged to find out about supported employment, which is how I got on my path to success.