

Sam's Story

Sam had been going to City College Norwich for two years. He had been on lots of different courses with help from the Regional Centre for Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Before this he went to his local sixth form. Sam did not get the help he needed at sixth form and found the work hard. The school had found Sam some work experience in a shop but this was not the sort of job he wanted.

Sam decided he would like to find a job, so he joined Project SEARCH. Sam spent the first term of the course at City College, where he gained job skills, learnt about hospital work and earned a Basic Food Hygiene Certificate. Sam also took Remploy's Core Skills Assessment. This showed that Sam had skills in lots of different areas and did not like things staying the same.

Sam's first work placement involved helping hospital porters take health records around a hospital. Sam enjoyed this work as it followed a set of rules. To learn different tasks for his role Sam had job coaching. He was soon able to do every one of the tasks. During his placement Sam noticed a problem with the way the work was being done and told his manager. There was then a change made to the way the porters loaded their trolleys with the health records.

Part of Sam's second work placement was in the education department at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. He also worked in the hospital's lighting and sound department. This part of the role was hard for Sam at first. The tasks he had to do were

not always set at the start of the day. Sam learnt lots from job coaching. By the end of the placement he was much better at working without a set timetable.

As a result of Project SEARCH Sam has now been offered an eighteen hour per week job in the Health Records Library at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Sam has been helped to claim travel funding through Access to Work. Remploy and Workstep will keep helping Sam at work.

Sam missed one day of the whole course, even though he had to travel very far each day. He was always willing and eager to learn.