

Stuart Buckley's Story

Stuart Buckley has Downs Syndrome and some learning difficulties. He finished his college course in hospitality and catering in July 2009. The work experience he went on as part of the course gave Stuart confidence and helped him realise what sort of job he wanted.

Connexions put Stuart in touch with Leicestershire's job agency for people with learning disabilities, Breaking the Barriers (BtB). In August 2009 Stuart met with an Employment Development Officer (EDO) who helped Stuart look for work, send out CVs and fill in application forms. The EDO also gave Stuart advice about benefits. Stuart's parents helped their son and Breaking the Barriers in any way they could.

In October 2009 Stuart was offered a work trial in the kitchen at the Premier Inn in Rugby. The work trial was successful and Stuart was offered 15 hours paid work a week. Stuart could not get to the Premier Inn by public transport so Breaking the Barriers helped him apply to Access to Work. Access to Work is a government plan that helps people with disabilities with costs that affect their ability to work. They helped Stuart to pay for his travel.

Stuart is still working at the Premier Inn and is enjoying the work. He is mainly pot washing but hopes to move on to food preparation in the near future. He is working about 12 hours per week on higher rate permitted work. Breaking the Barriers continues to support Stuart.