

Tony Wood's Story

When I heard about the volunteering scheme set up by Ealing Council I thought it would be a great way to find a work placement. The range of placements looked very useful and interesting and I thought that a scheme to help disabled people gain skills to prepare them for entry into long term work was a very good idea. I first heard about the placement at Ealing Council through my disability advisor at Ealing job centre.

The placement involved working with David Dobbs, Ealing's Disability Employment Co-ordinator. During the placement I would be looking at disability issues within the council. I felt this was a very positive role that sounded right for me. It fit in well with my past experiences and interests.

Before starting this scheme I studied Philosophy and Film Studies at Anglia Ruskin University where I achieved an Upper Second. Since leaving university in June 2007 I have done a number of different jobs. Two past employers asked me to leave my role. They claimed that I was not performing well enough and that I was not right for the role. Neither of these employers made reasonable adjustments or asked me if my disability was affecting my work.

I then started working with Virendra Sharma MP as a Volunteer in his Westminster and Constituency office. This helped to build up my skill set and self-confidence after being dismissed twice. During my placement at Ealing Council I want to build up a broad skill set that will prepare me for full time paid work. I would like to learn

new computer skills. At the end of my placement I hope to have gained skills that I can put on my CV to improve my chances of finding long term work.

I would like to learn more about disability case law. I would also like to learn about the different departments within Ealing Council. I want to find out about jobs at the Council and consider where I would fit in. Finally I would like helpful feedback that I can use to think about my time at Ealing Council.

This placement fits in well with my interests and I hope that I can be an asset to Ealing Council. I stood to be a councillor in the last council election and came fourth with a large share of the vote. I live locally and would like to learn how the council provides services. I am a member of the Labour party and passionate about the difference politics makes in people's lives. I am interested in disability and disability rights. I have a personal interest in the Disability Discrimination Act and how this is applied in the work place. I also want to look at how well disability employment training schemes are working. Finally I want to look at ways disability schemes can be made better.