

WORKING TOGETHER

A monthly newsletter showcasing partner & learner success stories - May 2017



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Go Train received a very moving testimonial from a learner who managed to turn his life around through learning new skills: a positive reminder of the impact Go Train and referral partners have in transforming people's lives.

"My name is Martin and I was a Carpenter and Joiner for over 30 years, working in some of the most exclusive buildings in London, such as St George's Hotel and The Cumberland Hotel and County Hall - providing maintenance and repairs as and when needed.

It was a well paid job with great prospects, however the stresses and strains of looking after other people's needs can often draw heavily on you. Quite unknowingly and after some time my mental health deteriorated and 5 years ago I found myself full of self-destructive feelings and moments away from suicide. After a narrow escape I spent 5 years of my life trying put my life back together again and that is

where Go Train comes into this.

Signing on to Job Seekers at the local job centre seemed to make some sense, but made my home quickly feel like a prison. During one of my memorable meetings at the job centre, I was informed that due to having been out of work for some time, I may need a little help to adjust to the present job market.

I was referred to Go Train and at first I was hesitant, as I felt I was going back to school at 55 years old – I didn't think they could help me.

I was wrong and it turned out to be the best decision I could have ever made.

On my first day my Centre Manager welcomed me and told me that part of the programme is to offer help, encouragement and the support I needed. Through the training I was given the opportunity to strengthen my weaknesses, apply myself, improve my skills and prepare to find work.



I have never enjoyed myself so much as I did at Go Train, learning and developing my Employability, IT and maths skills gave me a real sense of purpose. After 5 months **I now have a job at the IBIS hotel, and in no uncertain terms I owe real heart felt gratitude and thanks to Go Train**, the manager and all of his team. Would I recommend them to anyone else?... just try and stop me!"

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Susan had been unemployed for almost 45 years and began her training with Go Train in Grays in February. On Susan's first day she felt nervous and lacked self-confidence. At first Susan was referred to an Employability and Basic IT programme, however after the first week Susan enjoyed her course so much that she signed herself up to ECDL level 1 and 2. During her time at Go Train Susan also completed English, maths and Customer Service courses.

Throughout her training Susan really grew as a person and became a regular at the centre, even undertaking a few weeks work experience! After completing her Customer Service course **Susan managed to secure employment at Wilko's**. Susan said, "Being at Go Train has given me so much confidence and has helped me find my first full time job." We wish Susan the very best in her future endeavours.

COMPUTER SKILLS FOR WORK

Carolyn was referred to Go Train Basildon by Jobcentre Plus. Initially Carolyn wasn't confident in her abilities to learn new computer skills to help her find work. However as the course went on she became more assured using a computer and speaking to other people. Carolyn went on to say:

"The course was excellent, I found it easy to understand and useful. Using Word and Excel with confidence will help me find work as I can now show potential employers what I am capable of. My Tutor was excellent and communicated very clearly."

A BIG THANK YOU



On 26th April, Anne Noon, Kent Regional Manager and Clair Petitt, Kent Assistant Regional Manager with Go Train, attended a 'Celebration' meeting at Chatham Jobcentre Plus. The meeting allowed Go Train to acknowledge our successful partnership and to thank 3 Work Coaches for referring recent learners, some of who are now employed by Go Train!

Certificates of thanks were handed to; Annabelle, Debbie and Joyce at Jobcentre Plus Chatham.

"Transforming lives by improving skills, preparing for jobs and building careers."

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BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Go Train Maidstone recently ran a lone parent Employability course. The course was a major success and feedback from the learners was extremely positive - 100% of learners said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the course and their learning outcomes. Learner comments included:

"The structure of the course was very good, it flowed in a natural way which made it easier to understand. I feel much more confident about getting back into the job market."

"I have loved this course, it has given me so much confidence to go job hunting. The course was brilliant."

"I most enjoyed the group support, meeting mums in a similar situation and the encouragement I received."

"I've already applied for 6 jobs and have been called back for an interview next week!"

Good luck everyone!



DAILY MATHS SKILLS

John had previously participated in tutor led courses at Go Train with great success, however he was nervous about starting his maths level 1 course as he had always struggled with the subject. At first he found the course difficult and thought he wouldn't use the maths theories in real life - though he stuck with it and progressed with the support of his Training Supervisor and their 1-to-1 sessions. John started to understand he already used a lot of the maths concepts in his day to day life. Over time his confidence grew and he was able to answer many of the questions and completed the course.

In addition, John's social confidence also improved. He became friends with many of the learners and felt that Go Train was not just about learning, but also about socialising with others who are in similar situations.

John completed his course and said that it has helped him in a variety of ways. "I have improved my CV with new qualifications, increased my confidence and received advice on finding employment. **I now work for Herne Cars as a driver and I'm very grateful to the Go Train team who helped me to succeed.**"

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE

"I was referred to the National Careers Service to improve my CV. I had a very good experience and received advice to tailor my CV and interview tips - shortly after I **started work at Go Train Chatham** - talking to the careers service helped me get this position." Alex, Rochester



"My Tutor introduced me to the National Careers Service. I wanted to know what help I needed to develop my CV and get a job. My advisor was lovely and helped me complete an Action Plan and use the website and online tools to write a CV - she also advised me to look for volunteer roles in the career that I would like to go forward in. I'm now more confident in knowing what jobs I'm capable of and where to search." Amanda, Woolwich



YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

OWEN'S STORY

Owen was referred to Go Train by Jobcentre Plus Maidstone to attend the YES (Youth Employability Skills) course - a 3 week course that includes 2 weeks of developing the learner's skills and a final week of interactive job searching.

Owen had been unemployed for the majority of time since leaving school. He was lacking confidence and wanted an employer to give him a chance. **During his final week Owen got offered a trial at DHL. He attended the induction and started on the 28th April as a Warehouse Operative.**

Owen visited Go Train Maidstone after his first shift to tell the staff how pleased he was to have secured a job - his confidence shone through.



LEAH'S STORY

Leah began the YES course in March this year after being referred by Jobcentre Plus Canterbury. Leah had been unemployed for almost a year and had very low self-esteem, however since finishing the course she has **gained confidence and found employment with the NHS in Ashford.** Canterbury Jobcentre Plus sent an email to say,

"Leah has been visiting Jobcentre Plus since May 2015 - since completing the course Leah's Work Coach has said she is like a different person and has successfully got a job with the NHS. I think we can safely say the Youth Employability course has been an absolute success and other Work Coaches have been asking when the next course will be running!"

"Transforming lives by improving skills, preparing for jobs and building careers."