

Employed for Success Case Study

“I wasn’t looking to go to uni, I didn’t think it was an option or that I would get in” says a single mother from Chelmsley Wood. Working for a local voluntary organisation in an administrative role this single parent decided it was time to look to the future and when she saw how easy to read the Employed for Success Information Pack was, she took it home to read more. The pack enabled her to explore her options, she was considering a college course but found all the information she needed to explore other options such as access courses, open university as well as local college courses. “The pack was a single point of access, it had everything, all the contact details I needed”.

Having everything to hand, this inspired her to look into the option of going to university, which was something she’d never even dreamed of. With none of her family members ever going to university she wanted to take a chance, with her son growing up and becoming more independent she wanted to do something to better hers and her son’s life.

With her ambition of becoming a support worker in mind, she used the contact details in the Information Pack to find out how to go about getting the qualifications she would need to achieve her goal. “The pack was really simple to use and it kept me motivated”. Although she had no qualifications to support a university course she was encouraged by a local university to apply for the course she was interested in, so with nothing to lose that’s just what she did!

The organisation she works for also offered their support and so having a work placement to support the Social Care course she applied for worked in her favour and she was soon offered a place on the course, much to her surprise. Delighted she had been accepted on the course, her employer made arrangements for a role change to support her university course. “I’m now a Carers Liaison Worker” she tells me excitedly. Going to University is also helping her organisation as it has allowed them to expand their team by creating this new role.

After just two weeks of starting her Social Work degree, this enthusiastic individual loves her course and is so excited about it. She’s made a whole class full of new friends, sharing experiences and having extra support makes all the difference. It’s increased her confidence and seeing his mom so enthused it’s inspired her son to go to Uni after he finishes school. Being the first of her family to go to Uni all of her family are really proud of her.

“It’s made me excited about my future and my son’s future.”

“I’m really proud of myself”

Due to her circumstances she never aspired to go to university until given the opportunity to explore her options and she’s glad she did! She told us how she feels like she’s defeated the odds by getting a place on a university

course to work towards her degree and how she is really enthusiastic in class as she never expected to have this opportunity.

“I’ve had the most exciting two weeks of my life,” she said with a huge smile on her face.

So being a single parent, doing a part-time uni course and working may be a challenge but it’s certainly an achievable one if you have the determination to make it happen!

If you would like a copy of the Employed for Success Information Pack please visit www.solihull.gov.uk/employmentsupport or call the Employment Team for further information on 0121 704 8582.