

Adult Learning Service Good News

Welcome to June's newsletter, full of inspiring stories about the good work taking place in the service, for the benefit of our learners and their communities...

Event to Celebrate 10 Years of Cotton Go Getters- supported by the Neighbourhood Learning Team

Hazel Johnston attended an event at Delapre Community Rooms in Alton Street on 14th May 2015 to celebrate this great achievement.

10 years ago Neighbourhood Learning worked with our partners Age Concern (now Age UK) and Southern Quarter Development Limited in Far Cotton to set up 'Cotton Go Getters'. The group was set up to beat social isolation and as a safe place for older residents to come together on a weekly basis. The group has a physical exercise followed by a wellbeing activity and then lunch. The group received various funding over the years but is now self funding.



Hazel Johnston gave a speech of congratulations with memories of the early days of the group. She also cut the cake and drew the raffle tickets. In the early days Neighbourhood Learning staff cooked the food with the help of volunteers. These days a cook prepares the lunch.

Hazel Johnston said 'We are very proud that the Cotton Go Getters are still going strong after 10 years proving *mighty oaks from little acorns grow*'.

Unity Learning Disability Team

The team would like to celebrate the success of some individual learners who have achieved their employability, community volunteering or preparation for work outcomes during their courses;

H has been carrying out a voluntary role in Rushden's RSPCA shop, established through the support of Innoassist, and including this experience in her Employability Entry Level 3 qualification portfolio. In addition to this, H chose to achieve an additional certificate relating to Preparation for Work. Through discussing personal long term aims, H set targets to seek and apply for an additional voluntary role in her local community of Rushden.

Unity works in partnership with the wider community to offer work experience, suitable for individual skills and goals.

Through these partnerships learners have been given opportunities to put learned skills into practice, progress onto paid work opportunities and build self-confidence

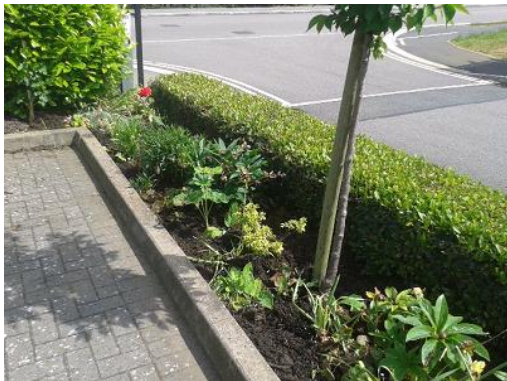
H's application to The Salvation Army was successful and will give her the opportunity to apply what she has learned at Unity into her future progression.

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Salvation Army, Rushden

Now that the warmer months have returned, J has been contacted by his former supervisor to begin his Horticulture voluntary role again. J received this feedback from his colleague:



“He has nothing but praise for him, and commented how hard working he was, always punctual, followed instruction well, and once shown was able to work alone with his support. He was offered breaks in the village, but preferred to have his lunch outside, and only took about 10 minutes before he started back to work.”

C has carried out a work experience with Spire Homes in Rushden and received this feedback from his colleagues:

“C’s help was much appreciated during his work experience placement. He got on very well with the task at hand, and had I have had similar jobs at the

time; I would have kept him on for longer. I hope Chris found his time with us useful and enjoyable.”

S and S, pictured below, have completed a four week work experience at Raunds Cooperative Store.



M has continued to volunteer at Wellingborough School, in the catering department. Recent feedback for Michael includes:

“We are more than happy with Michael he is very much a part of our team. He always has a smile will do anything that is asked of him and is a pleasure to have around He loves it when we have time to bake cakes with him and also enjoys being out on the self clearing where he gets a chance to see the students who all equally love having him here at Wellingborough School.

These are just a few of the many successes, other learners have applied for opportunities and are waiting to hear from applications or are currently in a recruitment process.

Unity learners and staff would like to say a special thank you to all work placement providers who have given such fantastic opportunities for learners to gain valuable work experience. This year’s work placement partnerships at Unity have included:

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Spire Homes, Wellingborough School, Heavenly Cuppa, Rushden and Isham village Church groups, Barnardo's, Stanwick Lakes, St Crispin's Retirement Village in Duston, Age UK, Phoenix Resource Centre, East Midlands Cooperative, Isebrook Hospital, The Beehive, Harringworth Manor Stables, Tools for Self Reliance, Spinney Hill Paddocks, RSPCA, MIND and Scope.

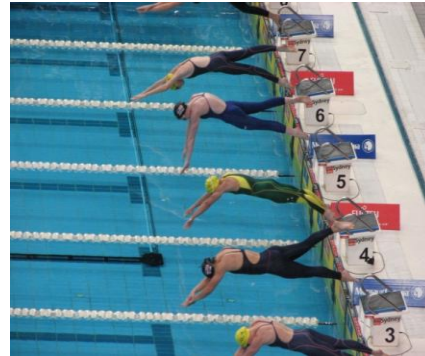
The team look forward to inviting all current and future work placement providers to the Unity awards ceremony and other events.

Positive Customer Feedback on courses in the PCDL brochure programme

Swimming

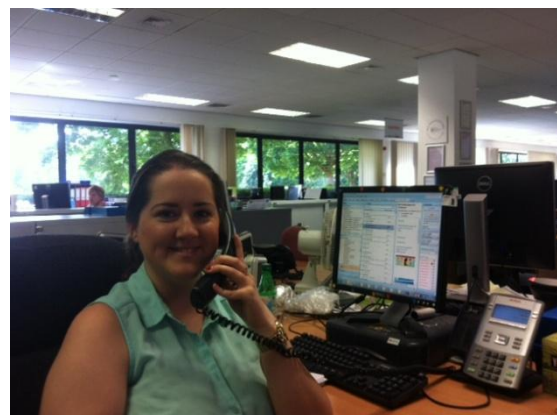
"My son has been attending the Adult Learning Parent and Baby and Parent and Toddler swimming classes for two years now and over the two years has learnt how to swim independently and important life skills. From a two year old who had very little confidence in water and would cling on to me for dear life to now the confident four year old who has achieved his 5 metres with no armbands and launches himself (safely obviously) into the water and enjoys his sessions every week. The instructor is excellent who teaches them safety first and makes sure they have the life skills to stay safe as well as have fun in the water. I would thoroughly recommend this class to anyone and it is also great for special bonding time with your child."

She has also recommended this class to her friends and now attends with 3 other parents and their children.



Learn2b & Support Services

A learner who enrolled recently in the Learn2b programme commented to a Support Services colleague that he has been going to the doctors since January for his mental health distress and has been on the waiting list to see the wellbeing team since then. He said it was excellent that the ALS enrolment line was open when he called at 4pm on Friday, as he can book on his courses and not have to worry all weekend about managing to get on them. He also said he is so impressed with the courses and that there is some help there for him without needing a referral from the doctor as he is getting help now.



Please send your good news stories to Alison Lyon, alyn@northamptonshire.gov.uk Thank you.