



## **MOVING ON TYNE & WEAR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER July/August 2020**

### **SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **Nearly there...**

And we're into July already, the 'summer holidays' are looming which means an end to home schooling is in sight, just another 8 weeks to go and those lovely bundles of joy can go back to school and parents can collapse in a heap of exhaustion in the comfort of their own quiet homes!

Relaxation of the restrictions are continuing and with pubs and leisure venues opening we are seeing a return back to the workplace and job vacancies beginning to open up again. In this issue we are concentrating on what resources we have to get you into a job . It could be that you want to refresh your skills with a training course, volunteer to get some experience as its been a long time since you have been in a working environment , help with a C.V and applications or just a straightforward job search, whatever you are looking for we're here to help and point you in the right direction.

Remember, we're set up specifically to support individuals with mental and physical barriers and you don't have to have an official diagnosis, if you feel you need support because your health is a barrier, then please see the 'can we help?' section.

**WHO IS THE  
MOST AWESOME  
PERSON TODAY?**



## **Result!**



With the current Crisis we have seen our referrals and results slow down, but we've still been there, behind the scenes cheering on our participants and every result is a victory and a celebration for the individuals that we support .

We have welcomed **7** people into MOTW from the beginning of restrictions which is a lot lower than usual, but instead of looking at the negative side we have taken this as an opportunity to work closely with our existing clients and give extra focus so they can realise their professional dreams.

We have said goodbye to **6** of our lovely participants who have either started training, gained employment or went into education and feel that they no longer need our support as they have achieved the goals they set out to reach at the beginning of their journey with us.

As always we are so proud to see them happy, confident and positive about their future and its been a pleasure to be part of your journeys.

### **In This Issue:**

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- ♦ Can we help?

# Employer Engagement Officers.

MOTW is, as it says in the title, spans across the whole of the Tyne and Wear region and as such has a huge variety of businesses, jobs and volunteer opportunities, far too many for us to keep on top of, and that is why we have our Employer Engagement Officers David Gillin and David Stanton.

**David Gillin** has been a manager at M&S, a Sports Development Officer for the City of London, and as part of that role he campaigned to get the Euro 96' Football Championships to the UK. It was a great success and in getting business to support sport for the first time paved the way for the 2012 Olympic Bid.



David also ran a successful business for years in America and has a really sound knowledge of what business' and employers are looking for in their staff.

**David Stanton** has a background in the training sector as this is where he has worked for over 20 years in various roles, he sold commercial training courses, i.e. CSCS , Manual Handling , IPAF and PASMA course.

David has an excellent knowledge of benefits rights as he worked as a Welfare, Benefits, Money and Debt adviser for 2 and 1/2 years where he successfully claimed back thousands of pounds worth of benefits for claimants and supported individuals to manage their debt.

David has also worked in Homelessness and Housing Options with Northumberland County Council and helped clients stay in their homes.

With this much experience and knowledge between them its not surprising that we have so many successful results. They always strive to get the best outcomes for participants and this means;

- Attending a variety of events specifically aimed at business owners to ensure they are aware of our programme and the people that we support.
- Negotiating business visits and work placement opportunities so that our participants can have a taste of what specific job roles entail.
- Forging links with volunteer providers to enhance the range of voluntary positions available specifically to our participants.
- Arranging mock interviews with managers in the companies that participants may be interested with so they can have feedback on their interview skills and C.V's.
- Negotiating with training providers to gain access to training at discounted prices.
- Scouring the regions job sites and contacting companies directly for up to date job vacancies and informing the different area about what's available within the region.
- Run job clubs in each area. South Tyneside's job club is ran by David Gillin at the Newcastle Building Society in South Shields.



David and David are an amazing resource within the MOTW team and we are always grateful for their hard work, they support us to support participants and we always ensure that we use them to their full potential to identify potential vacancies, training or volunteer positions for those who we support.

# Other Employment Support

MOTW have a lot of partner organisations working together, and as a result of this we are able to offer a vast amount of support, advice and training when it comes to preparing, applying and getting that job. We have NCS (National Careers Service) advisors, C.V support, Interview prep, a styling service for both Men and Women and also in work support for those who need it.



## Andrew Calder, NCS

Andrew's background is in education, having previously worked as a careers advisor at Sunderland College and more recently leading the Careers Guidance team at Darlington College.

The National Careers Service supports service users with independent and impartial careers advice relating to current or future job aspirations. The service also provides access to information about the labour market, education & training, CV preparation, applying for jobs and interview techniques.

The NCS programme had to adapt its delivery as a result of Covid-19, working from home and conducting telephone appointments with his customers. "At first I was a bit unsure about how that would work, but to be honest it's gone really well. We've had a fantastic response and have managed to run an efficient and, judging by feedback so far, effective careers service for anyone who needs advice. Appointments tend to be a bit shorter with the added bonus of less paperwork!"

## Smart works and Suitability.

Smart Works gives unemployed women with a confirmed interview a 1-hour personalised styling session which includes hair, make-up, clothes and handbag (which you get to keep for free!), followed by a 1-hour one-to-one interview preparation session. There is also a SECOND DRESSING (again, you get to keep the clothes for free) if you get the job!

*We are powered by a community of fashion retailers, businesses and individuals who are passionate about helping women be successful. Because of them, our service is completely free.* In the words of our patron, the Duchess of Sussex: "It's not a handout, but rather a hand held."



## Suitability

Suitability was founded by a MOTW navigator Darren who saw the success and amazing work that Smart works did for women and re-alised that there was nothing like this for men.

Darren has the same model, but solely supports men. Well done Darren, another MOTW legend!!!

## Training to Support Employment

We have always worked closely with a number of training providers and due to the pandemic we have had to look at what we can do to ensure that our participants are still receiving the best possible training in preparation for returning to the workforce—whether that is in a voluntary or paid position.

Many of our participants are unable to do the kind of job that they have done in the past, or maybe they have never had a job and they are unsure of what they would like to do or are capable of doing, this is where **SKILLS South Tyneside** come in, they have been working really hard to support our participants 'find their focus', confidence and voice when it comes to career choices.

These courses are now available online;  
Assertiveness, Resilience, Career Links, Conflict Management, Dealing with Change, Find your Future, Focus your Future, Interpersonal Skills, Invest in Your Future.



# Training to support employment

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# jobskilla

In previous newsletters we have explained how South Tyneside MOTW brought digital inclusion courses from **Jobskilla** to South Shields.

We have been frantically working behind the scenes during the pandemic to ensure that this is still available to our participants. A pilot has

taken place and some tweaks are still needed to ensure that we can provide the same standard virtually.

As previously the participant will still receive a free laptop or netbook to use during the course and it will be there's to keep once the course has been completed.

This is aimed at beginners to technology, you will learn the basics of computing as well as the fundamentals of workplace wellbeing.

We are already taking names in preparation, if you would like to go on the list then please contact your navigator or refer into MOTW.

## Can we help?

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We work with people with either a physical or mental health barrier (or both) that they feel is keeping them from employment, on a one to one basis, creating a bespoke action plan based on their background, experience and goals. We do not treat their health barrier but instead help them to navigate around the appropriate support services to address the barrier, and at the same time support them with actions that will move them closer to the job market (for example build CV's, prep for interviews etc).

We also have a Pathways Project, which replicates this core delivery for people with Autism and LLDD.

### To be eligible, you must:

Be unemployed

Aged 18 or over

Live in Tyne and Wear

Have a health issue, but no diagnosis is necessary

**For more information or to refer:**

**Call 0191 217 3206**

**Email [enquiries@motw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@motw.org.uk)**

**Visit [www.motw.org.uk](http://www.motw.org.uk)**