

An update on GCC employment support services in Gloucestershire

With the COVID-19 affecting every aspect of our daily lives we wanted to demonstrate the resilience of people engaging with our services who are finding or sustaining work and training opportunities across the county. Here are a few stories from our Forwards and GEM teams who continue to motivate and support customers and participants to achieve their employment ambitions

C applied for a role at Henley High Bank School before Covid-19, he attended an interview and was successful in gaining a permanent job. Due to Covid-19 his start date has been delayed but his job has been secured and once the school has reopened they will then give C a start date for when he can start.

"I am continuing to seek work and have applied through Indeed for an administration role because I know the lockdown won't last forever."

"My work continues through the Covid-19 period and I will continue to plan for a better job now, so I am ready for when it ends."

C had attended an interview at Hunters Care Home just before the Lockdown, they were successful. Due to Covid-19 there were rigorous changes within the care home, this did not stop C from wishing to start. C completed his training and induction online and enjoyed their 1st week at work.

During the Covid-19 crisis, N didn't let the lockdown stop him from searching for employment.

He was still keen to find work despite the worries that the virus brought, and so he continued to search online for any roles within businesses still active during the crisis.

A got the job himself after discussing that he needed permitted work as he was concerned for his own wellbeing if he was at home all the time. He focussed on a driving job and struggled to progress online.

In the end he went into store and spoke with a manager and he has ended up doing a security role (managing the queuing and self-distancing entry into store at Tesco Brockworth) rather than driving as the manager recognised his ability to interact with people during the validation/induction process. He does 2 shifts per week.

During the Covid-19 crisis, N didn't let the lockdown stop him from searching for employment. He was still keen to find work despite the worries that the virus brought, and so he continued to search online for any roles within businesses still active during the crisis.

N tried to contact multiple retailers within an accessible location to where he lives, as to avoid the dilemma potentially faced with public transport. His own tenacity and support from family paid off, and N was offered a paid role at his local The Co-operative. After a phone interview N accomplished this as he was offered a 0 hour contract and asked to start at the earliest convenience.

N shared some thoughts on the experience: *"I really wanted paid work to help those around me. I enjoy meeting new people, and not being allowed to leave the house to socialise was really frustrating. By working I get to keep active and help out others as well!"*

For more information or referrals please contact

Forwards@gloucestershire.gov.uk

