

# Diverse FM Community Media & Training Project



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LOTTERY FUNDED



Over the last 11 weeks Diverse FM has worked on a training programme, funded by Job Centre Plus as part of its Flexible Support Fund Programme.

Diverse FM was able to successfully recruit 18 learners, who were in receipt of a benefit and were able to provide them with a range of qualifications and skills to help them develop key life and employment skills and support them with progression into further education, training and/ or employment.

The following examples of few case studies and learner's journeys will demonstrate and highlight the significant achievement of the programme and key achievements and qualifications gained by individual's learner.

## Case Studies



Fahad Abdi

I am a 22 year old and came to England at the age of 12 from Holland. On my arrival I couldn't speak a word of English. I picked up the language by socialising and listening to people on how they spoke and asking them what the words they were speaking meant.

When I came to England I was out of school for a year while living in Leicester, and struggled to find an education placement for that period. After this I relocated to Luton where I attended Halyard High School and left with few GCSE's.

After my three years of secondary education, I attended Luton Sixth Form College, where I left with a few qualifications which helped me gain entrance into university. I stayed at the University for a year and due to serious personal issues I had to leave my course, after which I really struggled with my life because of the fact that I couldn't find a suitable long term career path to go into.

I have had various temporary employments through agencies and have failed to find a permanent suitable job. A few months ago I found myself in a situation where I had to claim Job Seekers Allowance to support myself through my difficult time.

When meeting with my Job Centre Plus Advisor I was given options and advice on training, one of the courses offered to me was with Diverse FM on the Flexible Support Fund programme, this was an 11 week course helping me gain qualifications in the following:

- Employability Skills - Level 1
- Interpersonal Skills - Level 1
- Radio Broadcasting - Level 1

I have really enjoyed my time with Diverse FM and the work experience opportunities that I have had working with other disadvantaged youth in the community. This experience has bought me to the decision that I want to work with young people, so I decided to apply to University of Bedfordshire to attend "Youth and Community Studies" and I am very happy that I have now been accepted on this course. With the continuous support of Diverse FM staff I am confident that I will now fulfil my chosen career.



Joshua Watts

I have been unemployed for a number of months leaving my job as a trainee engineer for a glazing company, as I felt that I was not progressing within this field.

After trying to manage on very little money that I had saved I found myself having to claim Job Seekers Allowance to help support me with living alone.

I attended my local Job Centre Plus office on a weekly basis to support me in finding employment. During one of my support meetings I was advised of a training course at Diverse FM. As I have a keen interest in music I soon snapped up the opportunity to undertake this unique training programme.

While on the programme I have successfully gained a number of qualifications, which includes the following:

- Employability Skills - Level 1
- Interpersonal Skills - Level 1
- Radio Broadcasting - Level 1

I have had a great experience being here at Diverse FM. I have been able to use the recording studios and help other young people. I have now completed my CV and gained valuable employability skills and training from the staff.

Over the last 7 weeks I have been searching for employment and as usual I have had many refusal emails and letters but with continuous support and encouragement from Diverse FM staff I never gave up and finally I gained an interview with Vixels TV Pixels in Luton for media and marketing sales adviser. Since I have national diploma in graphic design and advertising I thought that this would be an ideal opportunity for myself. I am now pleased to say that I have gained an offer of fulltime employment and I am now awaiting my start date within the next 2 weeks. I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff at Job Centre Plus and Diverse FM for the time and effort they have spent in helping me achieve my goals.



## Will Lafferty Reid

"Growing up in primary school I was never good at English or spelling and a bit slow with maths but I was told that I had the ability from my mother who used to aide me with my schoolwork as it would take me an hour to write ten sentences. Teachers never really saw that I had the ability and I was told that I had dyslexia because of my slow reading and bad spelling. As I progressed through primary school, teachers began to notice that vocally I could answer the questions very well but couldn't put my thoughts onto paper.

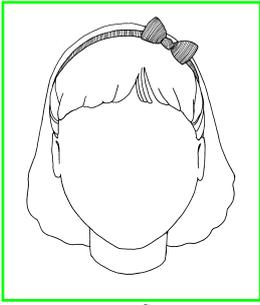
I did well on my exams in year six and was second highest in my class for science. Leaving primary school I started at secondary school and generally just completed my subjects and was getting on with my early high school/ secondary school life. In my first year of high school, year seven, I moved to the USA. Upon arriving in America I had a lot of confusion of what was happening in my life but I knew I would have to attend school and was nervous on what was going to happen. I started attending school about five months after leaving the UK. I started off in school by slacking in school not completing homework and generally not caring. I was in a junior high school at this point in my life and I only really had another year at this institute.

The following year, eighth grade, I put in more effort but not as much as I could have done. When I entered high school I knew I had to perform my best for the next four years, if I wanted to go to university. By the end of my first year I felt I did an adequate performance but I still knew I could try harder. I also noticed that my spelling, reading and writing was much better than in primary school and I was just as good as people in my classes. In my last and second to last years of high school I performed to the best of my ability and achieved all A's and B's, made the principles honour roll and applied to multiple universities.

Late in my last year of high school I discovered we were moving back to the UK. This was another huge step for me because I had been accepted to four universities and in the United States you are able to enter university with your major undeclared. Upon moving back to the UK I had no idea what I wanted to do in life and no relevant qualifications.

I have been unemployed for a number of years and have no experience in the current labour market. I have claimed Jobs Seekers Allowance for a number of months, at an appointment with my Job Centre Advisor I was told about the courses that were on offer at Diverse FM though Flexible Support Fund, I went along and had an appointment with the staff at Diverse FM, they went over my employment and education history, I was given an option of doing work experience with the Foundation Learning project to which I have been doing for a number of weeks, I fully enjoy working, mentoring and supporting young people through the transmission to adulthood. Though searching for Jobs or further training while on benefits, I have decided that I want to work with young people and I feel I can make a difference.

I recently applied to the University of Bedfordshire for the youth and community degree course, and I am happy to say that I have been accepted, I would like to thank Diverse FM and Job Centre Plus for supporting me for finding my path in life.



Soumia Quraishi

I left school with a number of GCSE's and attended college; I have been unemployed for a number of months after having various temporary jobs at Amazon and Tesco's outside of Luton, which I had to use public transport and different times of the day and night to get to and from these places.

After this my confidence was low as I was unsure about my future. I had to claim Job Seekers Allowance to help me with the cost of living.

I have been in regular contact with my advisor at the Job Centre Plus. They advised me of a course at Diverse FM that may help me with finding employment and with my confidence.

I attended an interview with a staff member at Diverse FM, who agreed to support and help me gain the skills that I needed to move on with my career.

After the first week I was asked if I would be interested in doing work experience to build up my confidence. I agreed to do this and I have not looked back since!!!!

I have enjoyed every minute of my work experience from helping the young people, to business admin. This has given me my confidence and in turn I have been able to move forward and apply for jobs using the skills and qualifications I have gained while being on the course.

After searching for weeks for employment and knockbacks I felt that I would not find employment, well..... after all this I now have 2 job offers, since I have retail experience I have decided that I will take the opportunity to work with Farm Foods full time as a sales/customer service assistant.

And from my work experience with Diverse FM, I am looking to the future, which is very bright.

With the support of staff and volunteers from Diverse FM I have applied to University of Bedfordshire to undertake "Youth and Community Studies" degree. I have had my interviews and I am waiting to find out if I have been given a place.



Jason Barrett

I have been unemployed for over 2 years and no working history to fall back, since I left school.

I ended up claiming Job Seekers Allowance and have been stuck on what to do ever since. After a meeting with my Job Centre Plus Advisor they advised me of a Flexible Support Fund course at Diverse FM.

When I attended an interview with Diverse FM, I was told of the qualifications on offer and training. I decided to give it a try and I have not looked back once.

I have gained a new CV and qualifications in the following:

- Employability Skills - Level 1
- Interpersonal Skills - Level 1
- Radio Broadcasting - Level 1

I was also given the opportunity to undertake an SIA Security Course. After this Diverse FM paid for my SIA Licence, which could have always been an obstacle because I would have never been able to paid it from my own savings. This had given me hope of finding employment in my chosen field of security.

I have had 2 interviews at London Luton Airport as a CAREBEAR, helping people within the airport and security field. I am really pleased to say that I've been successful with my interview and have been offered the post.

I would like to say thank you to those of you who have helped me grow and I am looking forward to my first months pay!



## Daniel Willis

I am 22 year old and came to Diverse FM, after recently being made redundant twice in a row in the retail sector. Due to this I lost my home and was forced to seek help that was not very forth coming.

"I lost all my confidence in the current labour market and lost all motivation while seeking work, especially after numerous failed job applications".

While on Diverse FM training programme the training team worked with me on one to one basis to help me to gain my self confidence and motivation in order to succeed in life.

Daniel achieved a number of qualifications whilst on the programme including:

- Employability Skills – Level 1
- Interpersonal Skills - Level 1
- Radio Broadcasting - Level 1
- First Aid
- Door supervisor – Level 1

Daniel has achieved all his training goals while on the course with 100% attendance. He also gained a wide range of other personal and social development skills, and a new and updated CV.

Daniel has now gained fulltime permanent employment in a local Jeweller. "I am very happy and able to start to think about living independently again". I couldn't describe in words how grateful I am to everyone at Diverse FM for everything they did to change my life around.

## Examples of learner's journey

### Mathew Widdleston

Mathew has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Mathew has done very well; he has achieved his goals and worked extra hard by coming in on additional days to receive 1-1 support. Mathew has gained confidence while at Diverse FM and this has helped him with interview skills and job applications.

Mathew is waiting to hear from an agency if he has gained employment as a security guard.

### Jake Bushell

Jake has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Jake has done well to achieve his goals and completed all his targets. He has had 100% attendance over the course duration; Jake is now seeking suitable employment for the future.

### **Reece Stansfield**

Reece has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Reece had has health issues and did not have any employability skills prior to the course; however he has now completed the course with confidence and the skills he needed to seek employment.

### **Rowan Walters**

Rowan has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Rowan has done well to achieve his goals; he has received 1-1 training to support him while on the programme. Rowan is seeking employment within Luton and is hoping to find it very soon

### **Afsana Begum**

Afsana has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid
- Door supervisor

Afsana has been seeking work over the last 11 weeks and has had interviews, she has recently become a volunteer to help disabled children, she feels this will give her the experience she needs to move on and find employment.

### **Trey Mckeawn**

Trey has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid
- Door supervisor

Trey has done exceptionally well since attending the programme, he has had several barriers to learning but has managed to overcome them and complete his qualifications, and he is currently seeking work within the retail or security sector

### **Mohammed Yassar**

Mohammed has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Mohammed completed his goals set out in the learning plan; he has managed to gain interviews and is hoping to be in employment within the next 4-5 weeks in the security field.

### **Safeer Rathor**

Safeer has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid
- Door supervisor

Safeer has had great achievement while on the programme, he has been able to gain employability skills and a brand new CV. Safeer also hope to be in employment in the next 5-6 week

## **Mohammed Farouk**

Mohammed has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Mohammed has gained qualification and skills to help him seek employment for the future. Diverse FM will continue to work with him to aid him in his search and hope to achieve his long term goal.

## **Jack Rogan**

Jack has completed

- Employability Skills Level 1
- Interpersonal Skills Level 1
- Radio Broadcasting Level 1
- First Aid
- Door supervisor

Jack has managed to gain his SIA Licence recently, and has gained his qualifications and a new CV; he has gained an interview and hopes to hear the outcome soon.

## **Assad Miah**

Assad has completed

- Employability Skills Level -1
- Interpersonal Skills Level -1
- Radio Broadcasting Level -1
- First Aid

Assad has worked well within the team and gained the relevant skills to support him in gaining employment, he has been able to gain an interview and he's hoping to hear the outcome very soon.