



VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE TO KICKSTART YOUR CAREER



Meet Lewis who is currently on a 6 month paid contract as part of the UK Government's Kickstart scheme.

Carol Hendrie, the owner of Professional Salon Training Ltd, joined thousands of employers across the UK to take advantage of the funding on offer to show their commitment to helping our young people develop transferable skills that are aimed at increasing their chances of sustained employment.

Let's hear from Lewis about how the Kickstart scheme and working with Professional Salon Training is benefitting them.

Why did you decide to apply for a kickstart opportunity?

My Work Coach mentioned the opportunity as they knew I had a passion (for years) for the make up/beauty industry. It was a great opportunity to get trained over a period of 6 months and work for Carol in the training centre assisting with other duties. This role also gave me access to other opportunities.

What was your career path prior to this opportunity?

I had been on universal credit/attending the job centre since I was 18 and looking for suitable opportunities. I was offered gender typical jobs/opportunities in construction and manual labour type work which was of no interest to me. I had previously enrolled on a college course pre-pandemic but never started because it was one night a week for 4 weeks which for me felt rushed. Carol is taking time to teach me over 6 months which is more suited to the way I learn.

How has the Kickstart programme been of benefit to you?

I have met new people, my isolation has reduced and I have a positive daily routine which I didn't have before. I am developing skills and getting training in the make up and beauty industry. My anxiety levels have reduced as Kickstart is paying for my travel and I am getting a monthly wage. Next steps: treating clients once skills increase in make up and possibly facials and other treatments. Potentially taking/tutoring classes with Carol in the longer term. Skills: word, excel, communication, planning, time management, confidence is growing and self awareness is improving.

We also caught up with Carol who told us why the Kickstart scheme has benefitted her and what Lewis has brought to her team:



Having the financial support from the programme has allowed me to grow and move forward which I was previously apprehensive to do. We developed a 3 month rota plan with activities, training and duties and giving responsibility to Lewis while they are working with me has been refreshing. Lewis has shown great respect and we have a professional supportive relationship which is benefiting us both. Personal care, tips and advice within the training is also given freely by Lewis and the employability aspects help grow their confidence.

Lewis has autism which has been a positive experience. Employers may feel daunted by recruiting someone with autism due to a lack of understanding of the needs of an employee. However, Lewis is the best member of staff I could have asked for as they are so helpful, has great attention to detail, is honest, very reliable with excellent time management and a truly nice person. Lewis has also helped my business grow within the non binary, trans and wider LGBT community, reaching more people than I would have before. Lewis will definitely be part of the team after the 6 month post in some way.



**Young
Person's
Guarantee**



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