

**THE**  
*Action*  
**GROUP**

**Making Real Jobs Happen**

# Real Jobs Work Placement Programme

Began 2005 in Midlothian funded through Education Dept. matched to ESF

Edinburgh pilot in Restalrig SI MD data zone since April 2006

# Background

- Young People with support needs were not getting a realistic picture of work from their work experience in S4
- Others were not even being offered the chance of a placement due to their need for support

# What we offer

- 1:1 placement fully supported by Employment Worker.
- Assistance to source placements in partnership with Guidance Staff.
- Advice for employers on any adjustments needed & ongoing support in the workplace.

## ■ Preparation for Work Course

- Either in group setting or 1:1 dependent on individual.
- Includes C.V.'s & Applications, Workplace visits, Information on the benefits system.
- Covers soft skills such as Interview skills, Job search techniques, Responsibilities in the workplace & Workplace culture.

- Referral to post 16 employment service if appropriate.
  - Real jobs has been providing a supported employment service since 1992.
- Chance for those involved to build on their confidence and gain paid work.

- Tracking service for those who go on to further education
- All those who took part in the first year have referred to main service.

# Farmer Auto Care

"Tom" was very shy when he began his placement and was only beginning to work on travelling independently.

During his placement he was shown the tools & equipment used by mechanics and learned how to change tyres & fit wheels.

He involved himself in the workplace banter and towards the end his confidence had grown enough that he would ask customers if they needed any help.

He so enjoyed his placement that it was extended without support for a further two days.

# I KEA

“Dick” is currently doing one day a week with I KEA.

His placement is pre-planned each week to ensure he gets the widest experience.

He has worked on the shop floor, “recovery” & carpentry. Gaining experience in customer service, using tools for assembly and different materials used in production.

Feedback is given daily, he has responded maturely to this & goes from strength to strength

# Feedback

“Personally I think things worked really well. It was challenging because of X's mobility. The staff enjoyed it too & I think they learned more about disability & looking for the things that people can do.”

Manager, Tesco.

“Very satisfied, placement would not have worked without RJ Support”

Manager, Penicuik Library

"Support was flexible and intuitive to X's individual needs and would not have worked if Elaine had not put in so much preparatory work with the School & X"

" X Grew in confidence over the week and achieved more than he ever thought he would. This confidence has remained & impacted on other areas of his life too"

Parent

# The future?

- Midlothian DTS until March 2009
- Edinburgh SIMD until March 2008
- We aim for expansion across Edinburgh subject to funding.

# How to contact us?

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# Thanks to

Midlothian & City of Edinburgh  
Councils, Dobbies, Penicuik Library,  
IKEA, Farmer Auto Care, WRVS,  
Shoefayre, Tesco, The County Hotel,  
Edinburgh Butterfly & Insect  
World, The Happy Castle, Greggs,  
Barnardo's, The Action Group,  
Craigentenny Primary, Tip-Top  
Tresses, Steven Burgess  
decorators, Sodexo Catering.