



milkshakes



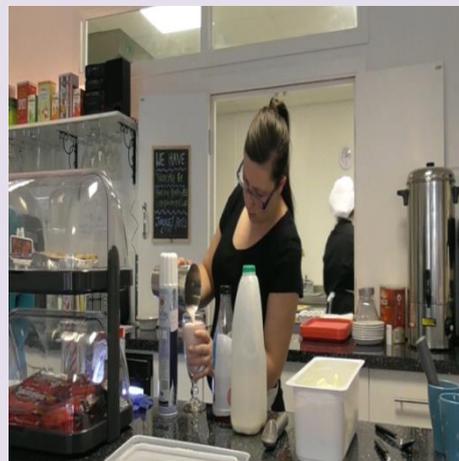
Work Opportunities at the Route Café - Widnes

Sarah has learning difficulties and is very vulnerable. Sarah has had a chaotic lifestyle and constantly struggled to maintain her commitment to programmes and objectives.

Sarah attended Riverside College for many years on the foundation studies course. As the course finally came to an end Sarah, with support from the Community Bridge Builders Team, attended transition meetings with a view to planning her entry into work.

Sarah said she was interested in working in a café environment so along with Bridge Builders she looked at the opportunities that were available. After finding there was little opportunities available Sarah visited The Route café in Widnes which is managed by Halton Community Services as part of a range of businesses designed to provide people with disabilities as varied an experience of work as possible.

The Route provides a very supportive environment with well trained staff who support people with learning disabilities to enable them to build up their confidence and skills. Sarah was made to feel very welcome and she relaxed into the work.



Sarah agreed that she would start work on a Saturday. Bridge Builders provided some job coaching using the Active Support Model. A system designed to break down tasks to their constituent parts, rendering it easier to learn.

Sarah has built up her skills and her confidence. With this new found vitality Sarah is now also working in another privately owned Café in Runcorn – Esposito's. Sarah supported by Bridge builders went along to Esposito's for a mini interview.

The owner was very impressed and agreed to start Sarah two days a week. Bridge Builders maintained their support to Sarah and after a few weeks she is working well and enjoying the valuable experience. Her life has stabilised and is no longer chaotic but regular and calm.

Sarah is looking at the possibility of extending her hours and breaking away from benefits.

Sarah's quality of life, her confidence and independence has soared. Sarah feels her role in her job and in her community is truly valued.

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