

Co-operation leads Mike to his future dreams

Michael Hodge is a young guy who has found it hard in life to mix with people and change is extremely hard to handle.

He has been attending College for a number of years and at first he just sat on his own and did not mix. With support from Vicky Banks from Career Connect and his development at College he agreed to meet with Kevin Glover from the Community Bridge Building Team.

He was asked to think about his future and what he would like to do with support from the Community Bridge Building Team.

Mike said he wished to work in a supermarket stacking shelves or stocking the freezers, ideally paid but if not voluntary.



Kevin found an opportunity at the Co-op store in Runcorn Old Town as a volunteer shop assistant. Mike said he would look at it but he wanted to do it after his 6 weeks college holidays and he wanted to do it very slowly.

Kevin met Mike once a week to go to the Co-op store helping Mike at his own pace to slowly build up his time in the store until he felt ready to meet the manager and set the date to start.

Mike worked 9.30am-2.30pm once a week, he had support from Kevin in the beginning and this was reduced by 30 minutes every week until he became confident enough to do this independently.

Kevin managed to increase the 1 day a week to 2 days a week, which Mike was extremely happy about.

Mike is due to leave College in June and wanted to do 3 days a week, it was mentioned in the beginning of his work placement that permitted work would be looked at.

Kevin approached the manager of the Co-op store about Mike increasing his days. The manager gladly agreed to offer Mike 3 days a week and would pay him the 3 hours permitted earnings. Mike was extremely happy with this and he wants this to start when he leaves college in June.

Mike is very proud that he awarded the 'Student of the Year' and now his dream has turned into reality with the right support and co-operation.