

Business Action on Homelessness: Ready for Work fortnight- getting people back into the workplace

Business Unit:

inspiredspaces, Nottingham

Date:

3rd-14th February 2014

Location:

Nottingham- various locales

In Partnership with:

Nottingham City Council & Business in the Community

Key Contact:

Nicola Foster- inspiredspaces Nottingham

Outcome Area(s):

Our People

Community

Business Benefits:

Employee engagement

Increased productivity through raised staff morale

Aligns with socio-economic objectives and supports our commitment to Nottingham city.

Corporate Social Responsibility evidence

Community Benefits:

Raising aspiration

Getting people back into work

From 3rd-14th February, our supply chain partners, Nottingham City Council, hosted a fortnight's work placement for Gary Vassell within their 'Street Scene' team.

The programme, facilitated through Business in the Community, aims to get unemployed people back into the workplace.

Aided by his workplace 'buddies' Alan Wright and Dean Shakh, Gary was employed as a Public Realm Operative at Woolsthorpe Depot in the city centre.

During his placement, Gary carried out a range of tasks, including but not limited to;

- Gardening and grounds maintenance, including strimming, mowing, pruning, hedge-cutting and removing debris
- Working with a variety of power tools and learning how to use them safely
- Communicating with the general public
- Learning how to work as part of a team
- Carrying out risk assessments
- Working with the neighbourhood services team on adhoc duties when required



Above L-R Gary Vassell and his buddy, Alan Wright, with his work experience completion certificate

Gary's buddies and senior colleagues at Street Scene were impressed with his commitment to the placement, readily speaking of his reliability and motivation. They reported that Gary was always on time and eager to learn new tasks, always looking for his next duty. They confirmed that Gary's high level of confidence meant that you would not have even realised he was on a work placement as he fitted into the job so easily; should the opportunity arise in future, they would certainly welcome working with him again.

Of his time spent on the work placement, Gary spoke of his enjoyment of the whole fortnight and said: "the placement has improved my confidence in the workplace and I felt welcomed and part of the team. I feel this is a positive step towards gaining employment in the future."

Following the completion of his placement, Gary has now been declared 'Work Ready' and will now be paired with a job coach through Business in the Community, to help him prepare his CV and look for permanent employment. He will also be signed to a recruitment agency based in the city.

We would like to wish the best of luck Gary in his future endeavours and say a massive "thank you" to our partners at Nottingham City Council for supporting the 'Ready for Work' fortnight once again.

