

Central London Forward Into Work – Candidate Case Study

Quarter/year: Q4 2015/2016
Provider: Cardinal Hume Centre
Name of candidate and employer: John* / Gardenlink Ltd

**John - candidate has asked for no photo to be used in case study*

“Thank you for getting me this job, it’s the best and the guys are friendly, it’s amazing, the gardens and houses we go to are fantastic, I’ll learn so much. Thank you for your help.”

John, 55 has had ongoing mental health issues throughout his adult life and as a result had struggled to maintain work. He first came to the Centre in 2011 for help with his job search and Richard supported him into a role where he was responsible for the replenishment of stock on ambulances. John then went on to drive ambulances between depots.

In mid-2015 John lost his father after a long illness. His father’s death affected John hugely and his health issues resurfaced, struggling with depression John had to give up work and he was unemployed for 5 months. However John was determined to overcome this and began to attend counselling to deal with his health issues.

John returned to the Centre in January 2016 to ask for support with his job search as he felt ready to re-engage. He and Richard began working together and discussed John’s interests and explored different opportunities that would really suit him. Richard recognised John’s love of the outdoors and helped him secure some volunteering experience first at Vauxhall City Farm and then at Westminster Boating Base. John really embraced the opportunity and even began to help run the kayaking classes at the boating base, this really helped to build his confidence and prepare him for his return to work.

Through their one-to-one meetings Richard identified gardening and horticulture as John’s passion. Richard used his contacts to secure John a free 8 weeks training course in Horticulture and Landscaping with Capel Manor College at the Regent’s Park campus. John excelled at it, with many of the teachers commenting that he was a natural. By the end of the course John’s confidence had really grown and he was determined to secure a role in horticulture.

Initially Richard helped John apply for specific job roles but the feedback was that he did not have enough experience. Richard suggested writing a speculative letter that acknowledged his lack of experience but highlighted his desire to work hard and forge a career in gardening. They sent this out to a range of horticulture businesses.

John heard back from a few of the companies but one in particular **Gardenlink** were keen to meet him. **Gardenlink** maintain some of the most exclusive Gardens in London and work to an extremely high spec. Following an informal meeting over a coffee with the maintenance manager at **Gardenlink**, John was offered a full time job.

John says:

“Thank you for getting me this job, it’s the best and the guys are friendly, it’s amazing, the gardens and houses we go to are fantastic, I’ll learn so much. Thank you for your help.”



www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk



www.gardenlink.co.uk