



Case Study

Phil McCormick

K9 Project

“*The CV writing and interview techniques were the most valuable part of the project and have been essential in helping me get a job.*”

Phil McCormick
Quality Assurance Technician



Project: Community Grants

Location: Cambridgeshire

Job Outcome: Temporary employment

K9 Project is a not-for-profit community project that supports young people with learning or behavioural difficulties through dogs. Young people are given the chance to train dogs, helping them to feel more relaxed. *Take the Lead* is one of their new programmes designed to build people's confidence and self-esteem. It focuses on improving their job prospects, through CV workshops, goal setting, role play and interview skills. The K9 project has received a grant from the Community Grants project which is managed by TCHC and funded by the European Social Fund in the East of England.

Phil McCormick had been involved in previous courses with the K9 Project and it was through these that he heard about the *Take the Lead* programme. He had just completed his A Levels, and like so many young people in a similar position, was struggling to find work or a direction in his life. He was attracted to the course because it is designed to help people like him.

The programme, which took place in East Cambridgeshire, ran over 12 weeks and included hands-on work with the K9 Project's own ex-shelter dogs. There were coaching sessions, role plays and a visit to the Block Fen RSPCA Centre where participants learned more about what goes on at the centre and the value of volunteering.

Phil found the *Take the Lead's* interview techniques and CV writing workshops the most valuable aspect of the course. These were really important in helping him find a job. While he learned a lot, the course was fun and he benefited enormously from being around other people with similar issues.

Since participating in the *Take the Lead* programme, Phil has secured temporary employment as a quality assurance technician for the last stages of game development. This was only possible because of the training and support he received from the K9 Project.

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