

WEST *Newsletter*



WEST aim to support people with Learning Disabilities living in Wiltshire find and sustain paid employment with local employers.

What do we expect from an Employer?

- A good rate of pay
- Safety Equipment, if needed
- Training
- Paid Holidays
- Good working conditions
- Fair treatment
- Being respected as an individual



West Administration Office: 01380 729 286

Did you know?

Choosing not to be paid for your work is not the same as volunteering. *(Taken from a Guide to volunteering while on Benefits – DWP)*

What counts as volunteering?

When it comes to claiming benefits, the Department for Work & Pensions defines a volunteer as a person who is:

- Not given any money, apart from their expenses
- Not legally obliged to volunteer
- **Doing something for a non profit organisation**
- Doing something for someone who is not a family member

If you want to volunteer and you are claiming benefits, you should discuss this with a benefits adviser before you start to volunteer.

Choosing not to be paid for your work is not the same as volunteering. If you are receiving an income-related benefit e.g. Income support, housing benefit.

The DWP might treat the wage that you would otherwise have been paid as 'Notional Earnings'. This could affect your benefits.



Meet Anthony. . .

Registered with WEST:
07 Nov 2005

Started a job in

Woolworths,

Warminster: 13 Nov

12 – 4pm Wednesdays



Anthony was responsible for keeping the stockroom in good working order, storing deliveries, utilising shelf space and ensuring all packaging was disposed of and not blocking the walkways.

Unfortunately Anthony's hours were reduced due to a new structure within the company. Anthony was not satisfied with this as he was interested in working more hours. Anthony discussed with his job coach looking into finding another job.

After being in his job at Woolworths for nearly 2 years, Anthony attended an interview and was offered another job. He resigned from Woolworths and worked his notice period.

Finished at Woolworths: 04 August 2008

Started new job at **Centre Parcs**: 07 April 2008

Job role: Window Cleaning

Hours: Mon & Fri 10 – 2.45pm



On taking the job at Centre Parcs, Anthony has increased his

hours by 5.5. He has also been able to invest in a Motor Scooter enabling him to get to and from work independently and the freedom to travel when he is not working. This also means he can be flexible with his working hours and if needed at busier periods or at weekends

he has no problems.

Anthony is delighted with his new position at Centre Parcs and very happy in his work. He is now looking into increasing his weekly hours.

Introducing. . .



Debra Mauchline

Hi my name is Debbie and I am the Team Leader for WEST.

Since our last Newsletter we have had a number of successes, including: A 16 hour position at Glenside Manor, a part time position with OCS Cleaning and a job within JJB Sports where the individual working there is now is hoping to increase his hours to 16.

Thank you

This is a quarterly Newsletter

Look out for the next edition in March 09