

Tayberry Enterprise – Lynsey’s Story

Tayberry Enterprise Limited is a start -up social enterprise based in Dundee providing creative art activities, volunteer opportunities and training placements in catering for people with significant health barriers to employment. These barriers include long term health conditions and learning disabilities. Tayberry’s creative arts groups include a number of drumming groups, Inform Theatre and now a Sensory Story Telling Project funded through Keys for Life. Tayberry Enterprise also runs a training canteen at Dovetail Enterprise’s factory. This is in partnership with Dovetail Enterprise and Dundee City Council’s Supported Employment Unit. The supported employment unit accept, screen and support individuals referred for placement at the café. The Tayberry Café provides opportunities for adults with health barriers and or learning disabilities to employment, providing skills and training to industry standards to give 'Empowerment through Employment'. Core funding for the café comes from NHS Communities Innovation Fund and is tapered over a 3-year period.



Lynsey had never had any paid employment before but had carried out work experience in cleaning and also short placement in a charity shop whilst at school. Lynsey has Dyspraxia which can cause fatigue and affects her ability to stand for long periods. She is currently claiming ESA and DLA in relation to her health condition. The dyspraxia also has an impact on her confidence and she could become quite anxious about completing tasks with the

worry that she may not be able to complete them. She also found working on the till at the charity shop quite stressful during busy periods. Lynsey was keen to assess her capabilities in a working environment and eager to progress towards work. She has a quiet determination not to let her health hold her back.

An opportunity was offered within the Tayberry Café as a Trainee on a Work Placement. This was seen as a chance for Lynsey to increase her confidence and also try new types of work within a kitchen environment and also tackle till work in a more supportive environment. The placement began carrying out laundry duties for the canteen and this went very well and Lynsey soon progressed, at her own request, onto other duties. The support Lynsey received from the Tayberry staff helped her overcome fears and anxiety to become an accomplished cashier. She also moved on to serve food and carry out kitchen porter duties safe in the knowledge that if things were too much physically, the approachable supervisors within Tayberry would be able to accommodate this.

Following excellent progress through the work placement, Lynsey was a candidate for a paid kitchen assistant position that became available within the café. After a successful application and interview, Lynsey was offered the post. As an ESA claimant, Lynsey is in a position to commence paid employment with limited earnings whilst remaining on benefit. This allows her to make the transition into work whilst still addressing her health issues.

Tayberry Café were able to show generous flexibility with the post in order to help Lynsey fit the criteria for this Supported Permitted Work. This allows Lynsey to experience a working routine in paid employment whilst also focussing on improving and maintaining her health. The improvement in Lynsey's confidence and social interaction through her

time at Tayberry has been substantial. Since commencing the job, she has taken part in extra training and has also participated in a chocolate making course which she thoroughly enjoyed. The supportive environment created within Tayberry has played a key part in Lynsey's development and she hopes this can continue for a long time to come.