

DARLINGTON NEWSLETTER

Darlington Routes to Work Newsletter

Summer 2021

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We would like to offer a warm welcome our new Routes to Work keyworkers Karen and Steven. They both have a lot of experience and knowledge and are a welcome addition to the team.



Karen Willis

Hi. I'm Karen. I have a background in Asylum Support Services and I am looking forward to working with my new team to support people



Steven Telford

Hi, I'm Steven. My previous roles have included working in employment & skills and residential children's care. I enjoy working with people to identify their strengths, support development of skills and help people reach their full potential.

Team Co-ordinator

Claire Compton

Keyworkers

Sara Hills

Ken Hope

Lynsey Stead

Angela Cooke

Karen Willis

Steven Telford

Business Support Officer

Julie Barker

The One Stop Shop is now open for
appointments only
Tuesday-Friday
10am-3pm.

To book an appointment please email:

OneStopShop@darlington.gov.uk

Or phone:

01325 406170

For existing clients, contact can also be made via your keyworker's phone number during office hours.

A NEW START! / A NEW LIFE!

Joanne came to Routes to Work when she needed support to get her life back on track. Joanne didn't believe that she could turn her life around but she decided to give Routes to Work a chance. She worked with her Routes to Work keyworker and things started to change for the better. Joanne began to increase in confidence. With support from her keyworker she started to face her problems instead of hiding away from them. Joanne and her keyworker looked at all her issues that were making her feel scared and vulnerable. Joanne addressed her problems and dealt with them one by one. With increased confidence, an optimistic outlook and dedicated time spent job searching, Joanne has now gained full-time employment working for Mencap. Her life has taken a turn for the better.

Let Joanne tell you in her own words:

"I am Joanne. I came to Routes To Work in Sept 2019 after visiting the Job Fair. I was thinking about jobs in the care side of things. At the Job's fair I saw the Routes to Work stall, had a chat with them and went forward from that. I had my initial interview in Jan 2019 in the One Stop Shop office in Darlington. I was in a very vulnerable situation personally. My keyworker and I took it step by step and spoke about my debt problems first. We looked at my goals, and after a couple of meetings with him we resolved some of my debts. My keyworker looked at my CV and made some suggestions to improve it. He gave guidance to build my confidence to look for work that I wanted to do. I only had my keyworker to support during the pandemic. We worked on my job searches and I have now gained full-time employment with Mencap. I love my job and my life is so much better now. If it wasn't for Routes to Work I wouldn't have had anyone and I wouldn't be in the place I am now. I am thankful for Routes to Work's support in turning my life around."

TEES VALLEY ROUTES TO WORK

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Clean Slate Solutions
Compassionately transforming lives

Clean Slate Solutions is a bespoke support service that has developed a network of socially open-minded employers across the Tees Valley and North Yorkshire to refer candidates on a case-by-case basis who have had a past conviction. It is firm in the knowledge that employment is the best way to reduce reoffending. Clean Slate Solutions only links candidates to employers when they are confident they are ready for employment, have passed an internal assessment and have a strong desire to be an employed contributing member of society. CSS provide initial mentored support allowing the removal of any barriers to employment, ensuring it provide support for its candidate therefore creating the best opportunity for success. CSS's support does not stop on employment continue as it continues to mentor each candidate post-employment for up to six months. Each day CSS helps improve housing situations, providing work wear, interview clothing, food parcels, budgeting advice, travel fares, fitness and nutrition, assistance, and so it goes on...!



Darlington Borough Council's Youth Employment Initiative Programme (YEI) has set up a Youth Hub with Jobcentre Plus in Pathfinder House, 156 Northgate to work with 16-29 year-old

unemployed young people. The hub will be one-stop-shop for all their needs with a focus on moving them into education, employment or training. Agencies will have a diary system to book out rooms that the YEI and Jobcentre can refer participants to. The hub is in a Grade II* listed building that is steeped in history, and is shared with NQA Foodbank, Arcus LGBT Counselling, Darlington Radio and a range of other agencies that use the building as their local base.

All of the work has been carried out on the hub by donations from local business and staff working out of their normal working week, to transform a fire damaged abandoned building back to its former glory. The hub was officially opened by local celebrity Nathan Henry, from MTV's Geordie Shore. A small video of the opening can be viewed here - <https://tinyurl.com/yeivideo001>

The presentation that was playing with lots of information about the history of the building can be viewed here -

<https://tinyurl.com/yeivideo003>

The Northern Echo story is here-

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19445831.geordie-shores-nathan-henry-opens-darlington-youth-hub/>

And lots of pictures are on the YEI Facebook page at -

<https://www.facebook.com/darlingtonyouthhub>

If you, a friend or family member would like support to get back into work and are aged under 30, then the YEI programme is an ideal first step – just speak to your job coach or contact:

steven.winterburn@darlington.gov.uk

World Suicide Prevention Day



The theme for World Suicide Prevention Day 2021-2023 set by the International Association for Suicide Prevention is **Creating Hope Through Change**. The focus of the North East and North Cumbria Suicide Prevention Network campaign for the day, 10th September, will be our communities, highlighting what resources are available to people and promoting our key messages:

Look after yourself

Look out for others

Get help early

Join in - Light a Candle is an act of remembrance demonstrating support for suicide prevention, to remember a lost loved one, and for the survivors of suicide. Individuals from all over the world light a candle at 8pm on 10th September.

For more information you can visit www.iasp.info/wspd2021/ or speak to your Routes to Work keyworker for access to local support for yourself or for someone you know.

Our Partners...

Jobcentre Plus
TVCRC
Learning & Skills
National Careers Service
700 Club
First Stop
DBC & Early Help

We Are With You
Probation Services
Mind
Best Practice
Darlington C.A.B.
Food For Thought
Cornerstone

Clean Slate Solutions
Darlington College
Step Forward Tees Valley
D.A.D
Darlington Credit Union
Bike Stop
Kings Church

Remploy
J&K Training
CAB
Working Alternatives
Youth Employment Initiative
Health Watch
Housing Associations



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

TEES VALLEY MAYOR