TEES VALLEY ROUTES TO WORK

DARLINGTON NEWSLETTER

Darlington Routes to Work Newsletter

Supporting you back into Work

Are you currently unemployed? Looking to take your next steps?

If your personal circumstances make it difficult to find a job, then Routes to Work is here to help!

We know that looking for a job can be hard, that's why we provide a range of support to help you overcome any barriers you might be facing and support you back into the workplace.

Routes to Work can support anyone over the age of 16 with sign-posting, information, advice and guidance to help you prepare for and access the world of work and get on the path to a successful career.

You may also be eligible to access tailored one-to-one support from a dedicated keyworker, who can help you put a plan together, get you the right skills and training, and help find the right job for you.

If you live in Darlington, are aged 16+, and want to find out how Routes to Work can help you contact the Darlington office.

onestopshop@darlington.gov.uk

<u>01325 406170</u> <u>07384797696</u>

May is National Walking Month

Walking is good for our minds, our bodies and our neighbourhoods and has proven to be a lifeline during the past year, helping people stay active and connected. Lockdown has highlighted the improvements that can be made to congestion and air quality when we drive less. That's why we want people to **#WalkThisMay**.

By walking the roadmap out of the pandemic, rather than driving it, we can all emerge healthier and happier.

Make a personal pledge to #WalkThisMay and see what benefits you stand to gain. As an added bonus everyone who pledges is entered into the prize draw to win either £200 or £50 worth of outdoor clothing shopping vouchers. Find out more; <u>https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/</u>national-walking-month



Team Co-ordinator Claire Compton

<u>Keyworkers</u> Sara Hills Ken Hope Lynsey Stead Angela Cooke

Business Support Officer Julie Barker

The One Stop Shop

The One Stop Shop is presently closed due to the Corona Virus.

Darlington Routes to Work team are still offering support and can be contacted via email:

OneStopShop@darlington.gov.uk

Or phoning: 01325 406170

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



Spring 2021

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Let's celebrate Routes to Work Success Stories

Client A has been working with us for 2 years and came to us as severe mental health issues were stopping her from functioning on a daily basis and affecting her ability to find a job. She has been through so much trauma this had caused her to suffer badly with her mental health, she was erratic and often displayed a great deal of anger.

She has worked hard over the 2 years with Routes to Work and even though life continues to be really hard for her, pushing her to her limits, she never gave up. With the help of her keyworker and our partners she has just started her first job role and is loving it. She loves the independence that it is giving her and the fact that she feels like she has re-joined the "normal working world". In her words she feels "like she has a purpose again".

She is aware that her life is still complicated, but she knows we are here for the next year to support her and alongside the partners we are working with, this will help stop her becoming overwhelmed in her new life.

Client B came back to the UK to care for a family member after living abroad for some years. On returning to the UK she was looking for a part time job in retail but was finding it difficult. She wanted a part time position to continue supporting her family member but she was also very isolated and didn't know anybody in Darlington apart from limited family members.

We registered with lots of job search websites and recruitment agencies and looked at what was available in the areas directly outside of Darlington as she didn't know what was accessible in nearby towns. With Keyworker support, Client B applied to a local retailer, she then completed and passed the on-line scenario testing, was invited for interview and secured the position.

Client B said "it has done me so much good to have somebody to talk to and help me to achieve my goals, I didn't think finding a job would be so hard coming back to the UK".

Client C had this to say about Routes to Work;

Routes to Work connected with me when I was at my lowest point ever. I was homeless, penniless and had no self esteem. My keyworker has been my guardian angel. She's always listened to me, encouraged me, and helped me get work. She helped me sort out my money and bills and has even come to interviews and meetings with me. I'm now a more confident person and living my life without any worries. It's a great organisation that helps with every aspect of your life, I can't recommend them enough"





