

Kickstart

Michael was the sole carer of his granddad who was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Michael's mum passed away when he was 12, this meant he had a very difficult time all around.

Whilst at school Michael was bullied which prevented him from engaging in education and made him withdrawn and despondent.

Since leaving school Michael had become disengaged and uninterested in his future and personal development.

However, in November 2005 he was referred via Connexions to the Kickstart programme at Nacro in Oldbury.

When Michael first joined he was negative and didn't really take any interest in his own progression. After a couple of weeks he started to feel part of a team and began setting himself targets. He was put in contact with the CAB who helped him to sort out a carers allowance. He worked out a rota system with his tutor so that the responsibilities he had at home wouldn't interfere with his future development.

Despite his hectic and unpredictable home life, during his time on the programme Michael achieved his Entry 3 Numeracy, Entry 3 Literacy, Key Skills Level 1 Improve Own Learning and Problem Solving and his ICT Entry 3.

Michael has now progressed onto the E2E programme where he has achieved his sixth qualification and has a work placement in Retail.

Notes to editors:

BCTG (Black Country Training Group Limited) works with a range of training organisations across the West Midlands delivering a range of publicly and privately funded training initiatives.

BCTG works closely with a range of public and private organisations, including the Learning and Skills Council, which support many of our activities.

BCTG has four main aims:

1. Engaging with young people and adults to take up vocational learning
2. Working with employers to help develop the skills their business needs to succeed
3. To improve the quality of education and training delivered in the West Midlands
4. Building partnerships across all the stakeholders interested in improving education and training.

BCTG offers a wide range of information, advice and training services to suit the needs of young people, schools and training providers and employers.

For more information go to www.bctg.org.uk

For media inquiries call Jane Williams on 01902 751565 or 07961 048613

