

## Inspire's Café Academy

The Café Academy targeted individuals aged 16+ with an additional support need. This ranged from people with physical disabilities, mental health problems, carers



and those with a learning difficulty or disability. Café Academy aims to provide an 11 week employment focussed training programme in the field of hospitality. The ultimate aim for Café Academy is to progress attendees on this course onto employment. The project supported 25 individuals to gain skills, qualifications and experience with in the Hospitality Sector.

### Impact

- 83% of participants successfully completed Café Academy.
- 91% of students have had the benefit of a successful and enjoyable one week work placement with a local employer.
- 53% of students have moved onto employment and other positive destinations since attending Café Academy.
- 61% of those not in positive destinations are regularly attending the weekly job club and are gaining interviews.

David was a young, shy and quiet boy on his first day at Café Academy. He had left college six months prior after completing an access course at college, but David had little idea of what he would like to do.

After just three weeks at Café Academy, David had become the leader of his group, formed many friendships and had volunteered to do extra hours in Café Coast to increase his new found skills.

All his hard work paid off when he went for his interview with John Lewis for his week long placement at the end of the Café Academy course.

He bowled over the Learning and Development team at John Lewis with his infectious smile and outgoing attitude saying he was ***“not afraid of hard work!”***

Within just three days of his placement, David had impressed John Lewis so much that he was offered a permanent part time job. David is now a Kitchen Porter at John Lewis and is looking to go to college to get his qualifications in Professional Cookery.

There is also a video of this project available on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiNksstxXAI>

For more information, please contact [Kelly Ho](#), Employment & Volunteer Co-ordinator, or by phone 01224 289018