

Leanne Builds a Career in Hospitality with DurhamEnable Support

[Audio: Ambient music plays in the background.]

[Video: We see Leanne walking to a table while holding 2 cups.]

[Leanne] I am Leanne Davis and I am 23 years old. So, I found out from DurhamEnable from the Job Centre. The Job Centre actually led me to there and, in the June, there was jobs going for the place I work in now. So, it was a very quick process and Emma helped me every step of the way.

[Video: Leanne using a marker to write down information on a whiteboard.]

[Melanie] I'm Melanie Philip and I'm the Food and Beverage Supervisor. Leanne, when she first came to work here, she was very confident. She was very willing to learn.

She listened to everything that she was asked to do... It was great to know that DurhamEnable would be there with their support because I needed to know that I had something to fall back on if there was any challenges that we came across that we didn't know how to handle with Leanne learning and taking things on board differently. So, it was good to know that they were there by an email or we could give them a ring and obviously they popped in every week just to make sure everything was going well.

[Leanne] Me and my mum spoke to loads of different organisations before that it just didn't work and by finding DurhamEnable, they aren't just pushing you into jobs. Having autism myself, it's difficult to find those boundaries. Those boundaries are hard. Whether people are accepting of that or not, it could be a thing that holds me back but it's not. With DurhamEnable, they see you and are willing to work with you.

[Video: We see Leanne laughing and talking to another member of hotel staff.]

[Meanie] I would encourage other organisations to take people on through DurhamEnable because it might be a little bit challenging at times but the reward at the end of seeing how well that person's progressed and how their confidence grew, it's absolutely amazing just to see how far people come from like the first day that they walk in being a little bit nervous. It's just so rewarding. To be fair, I would recommend any organisation do it.

[Leanne] Now I've engaged with DurhamEnable, I feel like I have a future. I have a career in hospitality which I never dreamed possible since I was young. It was kind of always just a pipe dream and now it's a reality.

[Video: Fade into to a white background with the DurhamEnable logo, Connect to Work logo, North East Combined Authority logo, Durham County Council logo, Base logos and Disability Confident logo.]