

Leanne Finds Her Future in Hospitality with DurhamEnable

[Audio: Ambient music plays in the background.]

[Video: Mel is shown talking to Leanne at a high stool table.]

[Mel] My name is Mel Kearney and I'm a Team Leader at DurhamEnable. Leanne joined us on DurhamEnable. She was allocated a job coach who worked with her on what we call a vocational profile, which is essentially getting to know Leanne's skills and strengths and aspirations, what she would really like to do as a career, what her job preferences are.

[Video: We see Leanne sorting and organizing a table with different sauces. we then cut to Leanne now at a white board writing a food order for the chef to read. Leanne is then seen with two cups with utensils walking to an empty table ready for customers. Finally, we see Leanne talking to another waiter in a black t-shirt in front the kitchen]

[Mel] It was wonderful to come across Hotel Indigo because they were so positive about creating inclusive recruitment practises. Because we had done a job analysis and a vocational profile on Leanne, we were able to match Leanne to that breakfast server role because essentially, we knew what Leanne's skills and strengths were, but we also knew what the hotel required from an individual who was going into a breakfast server role. Essentially, it was the ideal match.

[Video: We see Leanne writing an order on a whiteboard with a marker.]

[Leanne] Hi, I'm Leanne Davis and I am 23 years old. So, with DurhamEnable, they're willing to work with people who may struggle. 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.

[Video: A waiter gives Leanne advice on a task. We then cut to Leanne walking to a table with a customer with Leanne holding a plate of food with her using a napkin to keep her hand safe from the hot plate. We then see the customer mouthing thank you and we then get a shot of the breakfast.]

[Leanne] 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 organizing bottles of sauces, we then get cut to showing Leanne talking to Kirsty in front of the bar.]

[Mel] It's wonderful to work with individuals like Leanne and to watch them sort of grow within the support that they've received. Leanne, you know, she came to Hotel Indigo, and she absolutely gave 100% in that working interview. She has absolutely thrived within her role.

She's a valued member of the team. And it's so wonderful to see her confidence has improved, her independence has improved. She has a sense of purpose now.

Yeah, I'm extremely proud of her.

[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.

[Mel] If you're a resident of County Durham and you have a health need or disability and you would like support, gain, and paid employment, absolutely contact DurhamEnable. We are a service who offers the supported employment model to residents of Durham to support them finding and gaining sustainable employment.

[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.]