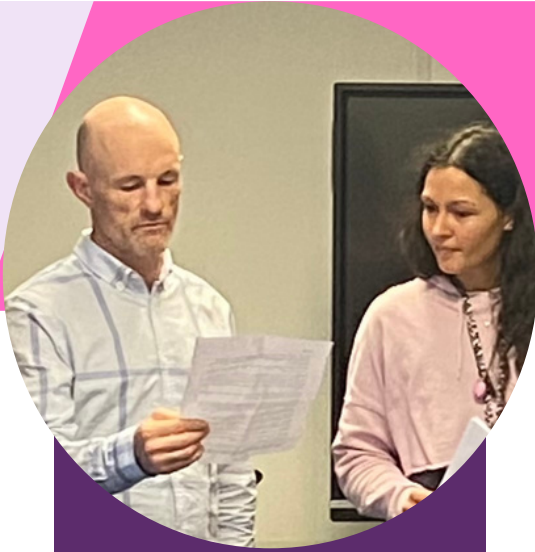


Case Study - Lee



“The programme has opened opportunities for me that I never would have imagined. It’s given me a lot of confidence, so I now feel excited for the future.”

Lee



Lack of focus

Lee was a self-confessed ‘jail bird’ who spent a lot of time in prison and wanted to change his life. On joining the Elevate Salford programme through Salford Loaves and Fishes, he admitted not having any focus nor direction, on top of his struggles with inappropriate behaviours, drug addictions and finances. Originally signed up on the programme to access CSCS card training, we registered him on an online course, for which he was very enthusiastic at the start; but when he had to do revision for the computer-based test, he lost interest, began to berate himself, which affected his confidence and capacity to engage and complete the course.

Surrealist Writing Project

After continuing to engage with Lee, he finally regained enough interest to engage in our Surrealist Writing Project, a short six-week project delivered in partnership with specialists in creative writing at Salford University. He started to read more and soon developed an interest in philosophy and science. This helped Lee regain the confidence to ask a referral to CSCS training. Lee’s keyworker introduced him to Chris at Groundworks, explaining his circumstances and challenges.

Preparation for Work in Construction

At Groundworks, Lee participated in the Preparation for Work in Construction course and worked hard to complete all his set work, manage his behaviours and to contribute to all sessions by sharing his real-life experience. As well as gaining a range of qualifications ranging from his CSCS card to a level 1 in customer service, Lee has demonstrated and grown an interest in peer mentoring by supporting his peers throughout the duration of the course. Lee has since gone on to explore other learning opportunities: he regularly attends RHS Bridgewater to work on a Community Grow Project and has participated in other creative learning activities such as a recent filmmaking project.



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Case Study - James

Social isolation

James was referred to the men centre by Salford Talking Therapies - he was experiencing social isolation, suicidal thoughts and was drinking alcohol 7 days a week, which was identified as a high-risk factor due to his mental health condition. He had recently lost a few close friends due to illness and suicide; but he was also a carer for his disabled son. James had numerous health problems himself, including arthritis in his left ankle, which hindered his ability to work physical jobs that he had previously enjoyed. Whilst he hoped for a treatment so he could go back to work, he really struggled mentally and financially.

After joining the men's club, some arts, gardening sessions and regaining some confidence, James worked with his key worker to find out about other on-site jobs he could potentially do, and expressed interest in becoming a Traffic Marshall or Security Guard. Salford Foundation provided James with a Banksman course, before introducing him to Groundworks, who facilitated the renewal of his CSCS card. James has since completed a level 3 Emergency First Aid qualification. He also met with the **Working Wardrobe team**, where he received his first experience of a job interview in 20 years, some smart clothing and shoes. James has now taken the initiative to enrolled on an upcoming SIA course, and reports feeling great, having reduced his drinking to once a week.

"When I first came to Salford Foundation, I felt like my life was over and there was no way out. I was drinking everyday out of boredom because I didn't know what else to do with my time and I wasn't very good with technology so had no clue how to update my CSCS card. Working on-site was all I had ever known and the thought of doing something else or sitting at a desk for the rest of my life scared me. Since coming here, I've made friends with people who are in the same boat as me and we all feel like a family. We help each other out and I can't thank the staff enough for how much they have helped and supported me too. I never thought I'd be able to achieve so many new qualifications at this stage in my life and I'm now looking forward to seeing what the future holds. I can't wait to start earning good money again so I can book a holiday to my favourite place, Benidorm." James.

"I never thought I'd be able to achieve so many new qualifications at this stage in my life and I'm now looking forward to seeing what the future holds"



Case Study - Mr M

No legal status

When Mr M was first referred to Salford Loaves and Fishes, he was living with an acquaintance. He has no recourse to public funds and no legal status to work in the UK, neither had he applied for asylum at that point. He has no family, connections nor real friends here. Mr M only had one motivation which was to find work in any possible capacity, but could not achieve this, due to his status. His situation was negatively affecting his finances, his mental health and was generally reflected through the way he stopped looking after himself.

Our priority was to get Mr M some legal advice about securing his status. So, we referred him to the immigration drop-in at Revive UK and supported him to attend his subsequent appointments whether by providing additional guidance, or a bus pass for him to get there. Meanwhile, we agreed to work with Mr M both to prepare him for the workplace and to prevent deterioration of his confidence, motivation, and general mental health. We decided to introduce Mr M to our partners at the Mustard Tree to help him have some structure, opportunities to meet new people, and learn new skills whilst he navigated the immigration system.

Freedom project group

At the Mustard Tree, Mr M showed himself very keen to learn and build on new skills. He joined one of the Freedom project groups through which trained for two days per week, in their retail community shop. M has developed and shown great customer service skills, and has seen his confidence rebuilt, particularly in the opportunity to interact with other service users. Mr M is also currently coming to end of a 6-week Computer Confidence course.

Positive future

He has built himself a new routine, new friendships, and new healthy habits through receiving a free meal every time he volunteers at the Mustard Tree. M plans to also gain training a warehouse and is looking forward to the future through a positive lens, with the continued support of Salford Loaves and Fishes and the Mustard Tree.



Case Study - Ability Cooperative



Mark with Adam, the Café owner

“I love working in the café, it makes me happy and I feel helpful“
Mark



“I like washing up and cleaning the shelves, I have even been clearing the tables“
Nathaniel

Ability Cooperative is a small Garden Centre which exists in Irlam for the benefit of disabled people and the wider community.

Since joining the partnership, Ability cooperative has **enrolled a group of six adult participants with disabilities onto the programme**, after sending out a letter to parents/carers for completion with their dependant to establish each person's current level of learning - a key step to enable them to best place each learner onto the appropriate activities, courses or work experience which can be offered through the partnership. This feeds into the creation of a bespoke learning plan for the participant, as well as a personal learning file - a new practice for the organisation.

The group has since engaged in short online tutorials, including work and life skills tutorials, specifically aimed at adults with learning disabilities. The sessions are adapted and delivered with multiple pauses to accommodate each learner's need and expand where necessary.

Work experience

Three of the group have now moved on to start their work experience, once a week in a café. Alongside their work experience, those participants will be completing health and hygiene courses, customer service-based courses and food safety training.

Adam, the café owner states *“The group working in the café are a joy to work with. They are hardworking, and they just get on with the job. They are well mannered and polite and cause no problems at all day during the working day”*.

For Ability Cooperative, joining the partnership is a great opportunity to build on the learning and development provision they aim offer to their service users, as well as a platform to improve the quality and extent of their delivery.



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Case Study - MV

MV is a refugee who left Northern (Kurdish) Iraq six months ago; having settled in Salford, he presented with communication barriers, difficulties in understanding the UK job market and meet new people. He first attended Salford Loaves and Fishes to practice his English skills and make new connections during their Talk English Cafes. He was then referred to Groundwork when he started to express interest in working in construction, since he had an Iraqi Civil Engineer qualification.

Preparation for Work in Construction

At Groundwork, MV was enrolled onto a Preparation for Work in Construction course which was delivered at the Mustard Tree in Little Hulton, where MV was able to form new friendships with participants in a similar situation. MV could speak a good level of English, but a lot of the terms mentioned in the training were harder to understand, so MV showed a lot resilience, spending time after class looking through the handouts, provided and completing series of CSCS mock tests. Since, he has passed his Level 1 City and Guilds Health and safety qualification, his Level 1 City and Guilds Customer Services qualification, and got full marks on his CSCS exam at the exam centre - his trainer at Groundwork says: *“incredible - this is the first time I have seen someone get full marks on a CSCS exam.”*

Working wardrobe

MV's CV has since been updated, and he has religiously been attending various employability sessions and a coaching and styling session with Working Wardrobe. MV also attended a session delivered by David from Entrepreneurs Unlocked where he learnt about setting up his own business and being self-employed in the Construction industry, something which he is now interested in learning more about. But he also now attends the centre regularly to job search online. And more recently, MV disclosed his dyslexia, which have allowed us to provide him with a screen and paper filter to use at home and in future work environments. MV has shared that he's found the support of the partnership more helpful than he could have imagined and his keen on continuing his journey with Groundwork and Salford Loaves and Fishes, and the new friends he's made at the Mustard Tree.

“Incredible - this is the first time I have seen someone get full marks on a CSCS exam.”
Groundwork trainer



Case Study - Darryl



“I first met Darryl whilst delivering self-employment sessions... I was struck by his ambition to share his story with criminology students and people in prison, and how he is developing his speaking skills.”



Darryl was referred to **Salford Foundation** by his probation officer after serving five years for a string of high-value robberies in Cheshire. Prior to being incarcerated, he had developed a reputation as a notorious burglar both in the UK and around the world, known for heading up a professional burglary gang. Darryl was worried that his reputation would be difficult to hide in a professional environment and felt that he had a lot to give back after the career he'd had. When meeting with Entrepreneurs Unlocked, he was invited to share his experience of rehabilitation in different prisons, where his great communication and presentation skills were praised.

Telling his story

Since, he's had the opportunity to complete a Public Talk with Remade with Hope Foundation. During this time, he told the story of how he was conditioned into a life of crime from a younger age and how he has now managed to turn his life around for the better with the help of organisations such as Entrepreneurs Unlocked. There, he was offered the opportunity to retell his story at a prison, then to Lancashire Police and now regularly at the University of Central Lancashire.

Although there are still many online articles about Darryl's past which he often worries about, he has also regained confidence, a level of financial independence and feels like his rehabilitation becomes a lot more real, when he is now able to share his expertise to help people. He still actively engages with the mindfulness and arts sessions at Salford Foundation and has since become an ambassador for Entrepreneurs Unlocked, with upcoming opportunities to deliver his talks in multiple prisons across England.

David Morgan from Entrepreneurs Unlocked says: *“I first met Darryl whilst delivering self-employment sessions as part of the Learning Skills and Work project I deliver at Salford Foundation; I was struck by his ambition to share his story with criminology students and people in prison, and how he is developing his speaking skills. We shared a common goal of showcasing how people can change their lives and really pleased that we are going to be working together in the future.”*