



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

St. ANTONY'S CENTRE

CASE STUDY PROFORMA

Funded by



PART A: CONTACT DETAILS

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PART B: PARTICIPANT CASE STUDY

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| Participant's Name | Julie Adams |
| Date of Birth | 12/05/61 |

Project Overview *(Approximately 100 words)*

Please provide a description of the project, identify what it is the project is delivering, who to (target group) and where (geographic coverage).

n/a

Participant's Background and Circumstances *(Approximately 250 words)*

Please give details of the participant's background and circumstances prior to joining the project. Include details of the individual's employment status and previous work experience, skills and qualifications obtained prior to commencing on the project, any health issues, care responsibilities or particular barriers faced by the individual.

Julie was taken out of school at the age of 15 to work in a family catering business and as a result was denied the opportunity to achieve any qualifications. Julie's upbringing had been less than supportive and her confidence was significantly affected by being told she was only fit for mundane work and would not achieve anything. After more than 20 years' of negative experience in the workplace, Julie was at a low ebb in terms of her self-esteem and this was compounded when she became unemployed.

Despite these circumstances, Julie sensed the opportunity to review her life plans and decided to try and find work in the care sector. It took courage and belief on Julie's part to enrol on accredited courses in Health and Social Care and Information and Advice & Guidance and then the commitment to achieve the corresponding qualifications. This gave her the platform to register on an Access to Higher Education course at Accrington College, but one barrier to this was the requirement for GCSE qualifications in English and Maths.

Julie was introduced to the ACT Centre by Inspire and after an initial assessment of her skills she started on a Level 2 course in Functional Skills English and a Level 1 course in Functional Skills Maths. Partly owing to the relaxed environment and partly to the level of personal support from her tutor, Julie immediately felt comfortable on her courses and quickly found her English and Maths skills improving.

Participant's Achievements *(Approximately 250 words)*

Please describe how the achievements of the participant whilst on the project. Include details of the progress made, skills and qualifications achieved, progress in gaining employment or work experience and barriers which have been overcome. Where activity is ongoing provide an update on progress.

Based on her experience in learning over the last 18 months Julie passed both her English and Maths exams at the first time of asking. The things that Julie found particularly helpful about the course included the patience and understanding of her tutor which gave her greater belief in her abilities and the small group sizes which encouraged her to contribute more to the classes and develop supportive relationships in the classroom with other learners.

Aside from the practical benefit of adding the qualifications to her CV and the ability to enrol on GCSE Maths and English courses, Julie has found that her participation and attainment have also increased her confidence in day-to-day situations such as calculating her shopping bill in her head. More importantly, Julie has recently found employment as a community care worker and Julie commented that she felt much more confident at interview in her ability to answer questions on her English skills as a result of being on the course.

For someone who would never previously have considered going to college the opportunity now to progress to a place at university and potentially to gain a specialism within the health and social care sector is a source of considerable pride to Julie and a testament to her determination and belief to build a more fulfilling life. Julie stated that the support she received from everyone at the ACT Centre had been great and her positive experience has helped broaden her horizons further.