

From the Wilderness to the Amazon

Employment Support Service client story August 2020

‘Just a few short months ago I considered myself to lack confidence and thought I had absolutely no chance of finding work after 18 years in the wilderness.

During one of my appointments with my community psychiatric nurse, I spotted a leaflet on the table for the service.

After deliberating for a couple of days, I decided to give them a ring. I had a really nice chat with a gentleman called Peter who explained to me how the service worked by helping people with mental health difficulties find their feet again.

Over the next few weeks, Peter became my rock - he gave me the confidence to apply for jobs, he helped me compose a CV, which beforehand I would have considered impossible. He gave me the confidence to use online interview techniques via Zoom and Skype and I discovered that I had the determination to succeed.

There were days where our weekly chat turned into 2 or 3 times daily, but Peter was always there for me, which made my confidence grow.

I had two options in the pipeline- one was with Amazon. I felt confident that I had a chance at both of these opportunities . Then came the day when it all seemed to go horribly wrong.

Although I had been shortlisted for the first company, I fell just short and was absolutely devastated. Once again Peter was there to pick me up, dust me off and give me the confidence to pursue other avenues.

On that very same day I had an online interview with Amazon and was struggling to hold it together. But as usual Peter was there with his wise words. On the very same day, in the afternoon, I received an offer from Amazon to start work the following week. Although the nerves nearly got the better of me, I have now completed my first weeks at Amazon, and I am looking forward to the future.

Peter told me ESS would still be there to support me through the early days, and I am very grateful for his invaluable support. I consider this service to be a lifeline, as I would never have got through this without it. I would just like to say a massive thank you for taking me on a journey from a person who had no hope to a really bright future ahead of me. ‘

