

PET-Xi CASE STUDY



Corey Chester, 22, originally from Nottingham and now living in Sheffield, was struggling to find employment upon his release from prison and required support in his unsuccessful job search.

Education was a struggle for Corey during his teenage years and this resulted in being removed from mainstream schooling. During this difficult period for Cory, he was in and out of prison for various reasons and lacked the key life skills that are gained during schooling.

Looking to turn his life around and end the cycle of prison sentences, Corey completed a business course during his term to give himself the best possible chance of success on the outside. Now based in Sheffield, Corey had dreams of turning his life around by starting his own business, however, he lacked the required customer service skills to kickstart this.

After being released in April 2023, Corey began his search for full-time employment and looked to start the foundations of his business ideas.

Support provided by PET Xi

Working with PET-Xi throughout the summer, Corey enrolled on our five-week Level Up course. The Reengagement, personal development programme supports 19–24-year-olds into the labour market and works with learners to build their personal development skills and boost their employability, through both vocational and classroom learning.

As part of the course, Corey successfully completed three Level 2 qualifications in Customer Service, IT User Skills and Team Leading, whilst also working to revamp his CV, cover letters, interview preparation and understanding the job market.

Kendall Clark, Contract Manager at PET Xi, said: “Given Corey previously struggled in a formal learning environment, it has been amazing to see how much he has progressed this, Summer. He has gained new skills and grown in confidence over the five weeks. He has always had drive to succeed, and it has been great supporting Corey in making positive progress and overcoming the barriers faced after his release from prison.”

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“I am thrilled to hear how the course has benefited both his job hunt and general wellbeing, including helping him land his first two job interviews.

“We have also linked him on a volunteer basis with a local knife crime organisation ‘Always and Alternative’ to share his experiences.

“Following the programme, we have continued to support Corey in preparation for future interviews and sourcing accommodation in the city, I look forward to hearing more about his future success.”

Outcomes

Following the course, Corey began applying for roles and it wasn't long before he secured his first two job interviews. The feedback from these interviews were excellent and Corey also received compliments on his new CV and interview skills.

Alongside his employment search, Corey is planning to visit schools and youth centres in his local area to meet at-risk youths and share his prison experiences. The aim of these visits is to prevent teenagers from making the same mistakes Corey made when he was in their position.

Corey said: “When I first joined, I told the team that I thought I was difficult to teach but Kendall and the PET-Xi team have been brilliant - the tutors have been really accommodating in their teaching and encouraging in their one-to-one support.

“They've gone above and beyond to support me in both my search for work and building a better future in Sheffield.

“The course has been great in helping me gain valuable new skills, so I am excited for the future and looking forward to starting my next chapter.”

Programme

Corey's programme was facilitated through funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral combined authority via ESF.

If you would like to do the same course as Corey we would love to hear from you!

To sign up call Kendall Clark on: **07876 832 094** or email: **kclark@pet-xi.co.uk**