

# Gary tells how it all began...

“I had a job at a supermarket. I used to work out the back with the trolleys. My mate loves the job, but I thought it was a bit boring. To be honest, the work was doing my head in.

Don't get me wrong. Some of the people I worked with were a good laugh. But some of them thought they were better than me.

I knew I wanted to do something different. But I just didn't know what.”

#### **Creating opportunities for work**

“It helped that we already involved people with learning disabilities in the work of the department. They had contributed to various project steering group meetings over the years. It made a difference to get to know people in this way... we could get to know them and they could get to know us with the pressure off.”

**Departmental Administrator**

#### **How to involve people in work**

- Disability Employment Advisers have links to people with learning disabilities who are actively seeking work ([www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)).
- Remploy Interwork's Recruitment Plus scheme offers support to both people with learning disabilities who want a job, and employers who want to employ people with learning disabilities ([www.remploy.co.uk](http://www.remploy.co.uk)).

“I thought about what I wanted to do.  
I also thought about the jobs I did in the past, the things I like doing and the things I don’t.  
I like meeting people and I also like to talk.  
I like acting and being a disc jockey in clubs.  
I talked to my dad about it. I got his advice.  
I talked to some old friends about it. I asked them what they thought I was good at. I asked them what they thought I needed to learn.”

**Planning where to advertise**

“We asked people we knew with learning disabilities where they, and their friends, looked for work. It helped us think through who we wanted for the job, the specific skills we required, and where we might find such a person.”

**Head of Department**

**Where to advertise**

- Local job centres and Jobcentre Plus offices ([www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)).
- Local day centres.
- Job clubs (held in local Supported Employment Organisations or Remploy Learning Centres).
- Disability magazines such as *Disability Now* ([www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)).
- Local newspapers.

Gary **thinks** it through