

PROFILE

Rachel Megram, Disability Employment Advisor



Based at Jobcentre Plus, Rachel, in many ways does very similar work to that of Embracing Diversity. She works with clients to help them move towards employment; building people's confidence, job matching and helping people who might be struggling to stay in work because of their disability.

She also works with employers and tries to 'sign up' those who are positive about employing disabled people. She says, "It's important to educate employers to know that it's about making adjustments, making it easier for disabled people to be employed by them."

Rachel refers people through Jobcentre Plus contracts to Work Link and Embracing Diversity.

Why?

Rachel says, "Employment Services' staff are able to offer in-depth, one-to-one support for people who in the past have been classed as 'unemployable'.

Embracing Diversity has innovative ways of working with employers such as '*Working Interviews*', where people can practically show they can do the job rather than going through a traditional interview. These have been really groundbreaking."

Of the progress of Supported Employment in Stockport Rachel says, "It's amazing! Traditionally people with disabilities would not have thought it was possible to get a job, but it's different now. I love seeing people in work, their increased confidence, the difference in someone's self-esteem and the difference it's made to their whole life."

Rachel adds that she and her colleagues rely heavily on Employment Services as staff can provide one-to-one support. "At Jobcentre Plus we have high caseloads so we can't spend as much time with the clients as we would like to. That's where Employment Services is valuable."



Rachel with client