

Hello all New Pioneers and welcome to our March newsletter. First of all, thank you and well done to all our hard working Pioneers and their Brokers. The New Pioneer Programme (NPP) is really changing people's lives, and the month of March has already seen some very positive 'Good News Stories'.

Since the beginning of our new cohort (November 2022), the NPP is supporting 90 new referrals. We have already supported 15 people in to work, and seen a very high engagement from our pioneers in joining our wellbeing provisions and with all our training partners.

We are now welcoming Heywood residents onto the Programme, and have a fantastic drop in clinic based at Heywood Works and Skills Hub in the library. The Hub is open Monday – Thursday 9.30am – 4.30pm. Please feel free to drop in.

15 pioneers enrolled on the well-being workshop held at Heywood hub, successfully completing the 4 week course on Saturday 19th March.

We also have our highly popular ongoing sewing class at Spotland community centre, where 9 pioneers attend in each week.



The public living room that the New Pioneers project has collaborated with Camerados.org, is now open at Spotland Community Centre Monday – Tuesday 10am – 12pm. Why not call in for a coffee and a chat with our lovely pioneer Tom Barlow. Tom will also be managing our Music Lab in either Rochdale or Heywood - watch this space for more details.

On Tuesday 8th March, the public living room held an International Woman's Day Event. Many of our women pioneers and brokers attended the morning, where they spread positivity and stories about feeling empowered as a woman. We now have a women's group every Wednesday 10am - 12pm. Why not drop in?



On Wednesday 16th March, the Pioneers and Brokers were invited by YourTrust to attend Touchstones Museum for a private tour of the Football Art Prize exhibition. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, and we very much look forward to going back to Touchstones for the next exhibition. Thank you very much to YourTrust for inviting us.

## MARCH 2022 - GOOD NEWS STORIES:

### Clair Whittle

Clair dropped into Heywood work and skills hub, just before Christmas to seek help and support towards a Council Tax bill she had received. Clair had worked in a warehouse environment for 16 years, however had a strong passion for Arts and Crafts. Clair is a mum of 2, so exploring a full time job prior to her youngest attending full time education seemed fruitless. However her passion and drive for the Arts were obvious. Clair soon became a very engaging pioneer, and with her broker began seeking opportunities to fulfil her aspiration to work in the Arts and Crafts field.

After a couple of business meetings with NNP project manager, Daisy Silva, Clair has become the founder of our Crafts Lab in Heywood. Clair will plan and deliver a weekly Craft Lab which will be open to everyone – including all our lovely New Pioneers.

"Clair - we are so happy to have you on board".



### Michael Djamalis

Michael joined the NPP earlier this year. He had previously had a successful business of 35 years, which he sold early 2021 shortly after lockdown. Since, Michael has been looking for meaningful part time work. Being from a Cypriot background, Michael had left school aged 10 to work in his father's restaurant business before moving to the UK. Then setting up his own business as a chip shop owner. Michael's CV was limited, he could not provide any references as such, and found this problematic when seeking work.

Since joining the NPP, Michael has been working with his Broker to improve his employability skills. Michael now has a job working match days at Rochdale Football club. He has also enrolled on a SIA level 2 course, with a guaranteed job outcome with Capricorn Security.

"Well done Michael. Good work".



### Brian

Brian was referred to the New Pioneer Project to get some support, to help him move into employment after being unemployed for several years. Career broker, Mark Whittaker said "It was clear when I first met Brian that he wanted to work, but needed some help to remove several personal barriers to make the first steps. He has been consistently honest about challenges in life and has worked with the project to remove these. After several weeks, Brian became confident to attend interviews and quickly changed his life for him and his children."

Brian said " I value being given a chance and having someone to talk to through the New Pioneers. Since starting employment, I feel more confident and valued that I have something to offer others. The team at Frank Blakeley and Son Ltd have been supportive and helpful. It's a lovely place to work with a friendly team. I appreciate the opportunity they have given me and I'm looking forward to the future.

The project is very proud of his journey of self-development and self-belief. His actions and ability to ask for help has changed his life. "Congratulations Brian from all the team".

### Karina

Karina is originally from Poland. She came to the UK and stayed with her Mum in a one bedroom flat with her son and a partner. When she joined the New Pioneer she could not speak English, had no home and no job. Karina started the literacy class with Andy Littlewood, our awesome English teacher. We applied for a home, prepared her CV and arranged for interview with Taylor Engineering. Her Broker Agata Gorczyca, attended with her in order to support her with translation. Karina secured the job, part time at first. Karina was working hard around her family life and at Taylor's engineering. Consequently, Karina got asked if she would like to do more hours and secured permanent full time contract with her employer. She has a home for her family and she is flourishing, we even did a little make over as you can see in the pictures.

"Keep up the good work Karina".



### Mark Kelly

Mark who had not worked for 23yrs, recently acquired his CSCS card and really wanted to do an outdoor labouring job. Mark's Broker Suzan Wilson conducted job search sessions and compiled a CV. Mark managed to get him a one week placement through RBH, even though initially reluctant due to his age and no work experience. Mark has always enjoyed general DIY jobs, helping his neighbours within Lower Falinge. He worked on the new builds at the Abbeydale site only 2 mins from Mark's House. He completed the week during horrendous weather, storms and flooding. When others failed to turn up!. He was then contacted by Engie and offered paid employment to cover staff absence. He has received a glowing reference from the site manager Alastair Mann, and told as soon as permanent position available he will be first in line.

Mark is so happy and thankful and is full of pride achieving his dream goal.

"Well done Mark, your determination paid off".



### Nadia Ouaid and Hewaida Shahin

Nadia and Hewaida are two ambitious pioneers who are seeking their dream to launch their private business in catering. With the support of New Pioneers Programme and their Broker Laila Almahrug, they experienced the taste of success for the first time, participating in the women's' day celebration in Rochdale. They displayed their traditional dishes and sweets which were sold out so fast. It was good motivation for them to pursue their dream in establishing their local business. They are looking forward to their next project impatiently.

" Keep up the good work, we know you will succeed".



### Jenni Mitchell

Jenni joined the pioneers in December 2021. At the time Jenni was a non-working Mum of 3, who was a little shy and unsure what she wanted to do career wise. Jenni who spent all her time caring for her very diverse family, and had little time for herself - We soon changed that . Jenni has since been working with the NPP to improve her confidence. She has attended many pioneer events, from packaging hampers at Christmas to attending one of our jobs fair at the Unitarian church. She also enrolled onto one of our well-being workshops.

Together with her broker Nicola McCormack, Jenni began to explore the possibilities of working with children as a career option - The only barrier would be that it had to be term time only as she needed the precious time with her own children and didn't have any reliable childcare. Along with her broker, she talked about working in a school setting. Soon after, Jenni enrolled on a 10 week Teaching Assistant level 2 course with Rochdale Training and has now completed the course. Jenni has since applied a job as a Teaching Assistant at her children's school, Harwood Primary. And guess what.....??? Jenni starts her new role as a teaching assistant on the 4th April 2022.

"Congratulations Jenni. We are so proud of you".



### Rochdale Ukranian Club have linked with Focus for Hope to get aid to Ukraine.

The items that are needed urgently are:

- Warm Children's clothing – it can be used but in very good condition.
- New children's & adult's underwear
- New children's and adult's socks
- Sleeping bags
- Nappies and wipes
- Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap etc
- Sanitary products
- Baby milk
- Baby clothing
- Baby bottles
- Dried food (pasta, soup etc)

No adults clothing please

**SPEAK TO YOUR BROKER IF YOU CAN HELP**



### Upcoming New Pioneer Events

#### Spotland Community Centre

- Monday 10 am till 12 pm – Numeracy with Pioneer Andy – preparing pioneers for Level 1 functional skills.
- Tuesdays 10 am to 12 pm – Literacy with Andy (most pioneers attending have English as their second language).
- Wednesday from 10 am to 12 pm – Women's group.
- Craft Cabin – Sewing class – fully booked at the moment.

#### Heywood

- Mondays – 10 am till 12 pm - Darn Hill library - Basic IT/literacy.
- Craft Lab – venue to be confirmed.
- Music lab - venue to be confirmed.

#### Falinge park activities

- Monday – Crafts 10am – 12pm.
- Friday – Gardening club at Falinge park 11am -1pm.
- Friday – Furniture upcycling 10am – 12pm.
- Friday 10 am -12pm – Soft furnishings with Pioneer Celia.

#### Number 1 Riverside

Recruitment fair - 21th March 10am - 1pm.

#### Middleton arena

Recruitment fair - 30th March 11am - 7pm.

#### Unitarian Church

Relaxation Session 30th March 12pm - 1pm.

#### Spotland Community Centre

First aid course 9.30am - 3.30pm



Don't forget our New Pioneers Easter Celebration at Rochdale Football Club. - 14th April 5pm – 9pm.

ALL PIONEERS AND THEIR CHILDREN WELCOME. (your invitation is on its way)

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BROKER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ANY OF THE ABOVE**  
or Email Sharon at [Sharon.Dunn@Rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Dunn@Rochdale.gov.uk)