

From Volunteering to Employment with Team East for Skills

Programme:
Team East for Skills

Region:
East of England

Date:
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“I loved every minute of the course, and I learned so much about theatre and performing arts as well as other things.”

Molly, Silver Fish participant, East of England

Team East for Skills, part of Legacy Trust UK’s East of England programme, is helping people like Molly into employment by getting them involved in volunteering and building skills.

Molly is 34 years old and has been trying to gain secure employment for the past 15 years without success. She has a mild form of cerebral palsy and has found it very difficult to find suitable employment.

She has experienced discrimination over the years because of her disability but this has not deterred her and she has completed a number of volunteering placements in the arts in order to gain experience to support her applications.

Upon seeing an email advertising a Silver Fish theatre project, Molly thought it sounded like an interesting course and an opportunity to support her experience with training. Silverfish is a Team East for Skills project run by arts charity Zinc, to offer people the opportunity to gain skills in theatre and production.

Through the project, Molly learnt many techniques to help her to work in community theatre, including planning and teaching methods. Molly also had the opportunity to direct elements of the play, improving her confidence in delivering to a group.

Molly says – ‘I loved every minute of the course, and I learned so much about theatre and performing arts as well as other things.’

Following on from Silverfish, Molly discussed her options with a Zinc project worker and applied to volunteer with a creative project for adults with disabilities. She has engaged extremely well with the participants and supporting community artists.

Molly was recently offered a paid contract as a support worker at Zinc, assisting a number of funded programmes with marketing and research.