

Case Study – Volunteer takes routes into training and employment

Saïd Lakehal of French / Algerian origin, moved to Dorset at the end of 2006 following 10 years working in the catering trade in London and Cheltenham. Prior to that, he worked as a clothes shop manager in a successful family business in France. He joined our volunteer list and showed a keen interest in diversifying his skills base, as he wanted a change of direction for his career. At the time he was unsure how to adapt his skills to new areas and was thinking of returning to France, as the only option to gain further training.

During the project, **Saïd has taken up four opportunities created by RLNSW** and is now in paid training and employment as a consequence.

Specialist in Halal cookery He joined the Paragon ITE Training team, which delivered the project seminar “Islamic Diet and Culture” in Weymouth. Saïd trained apprentices on Professional Cookery NVQ Levels 2 and 3, who work for local hotels and pubs, to prepare and serve Halal food.

Commercial work Wessex Chemical Factors, an established and expanding chemical cleaning Company in Poole, contacted the RLNSW in March to find them a French speaker with commercial experience to promote a new product in the French market. The same day Saïd contacted the firm and went to Poole. He has since advised them on a marketing strategy, refined their research objectives, made several new commercial contacts and assisted them with a cross-cultural strategy for the French market. He is currently working as a freelance commercial agent for the firm.



Language class volunteer Saïd was keen to develop his skills base and agreed to act as a volunteer during a French course for sailing volunteers, local employees and staff at the National Sailing Academy from April to June. Dorset Adult Education Service organised volunteer language assistant training as part of the project. Saïd has since applied to be an Adult Education tutor for courses beginning in September 2007.

Community researcher Following an approach to RLNSW Dorset by the mental health charity MIND for help in finding black and ethnic minority researchers in the area, Saïd has been employed as their researcher for South Dorset. He has undergone paid training to be a Community Researcher at Exeter University. Saïd has found this to be the most rewarding aspect of his new experiences to date and he hopes to develop his skills and gain further qualifications in this sector.

Our partnerships and contacts across business, education and the community enabled us to broker exciting opportunities.