

iwork

Momentum Skills' Work Choice ezine

Work Choice is a Government-supported employment programme designed to assist people with disabilities find and maintain employment, and support employers in employing more disabled people.

Customer Focus 1

Gillian secures dream job thanks to Work Choice

A Paisley woman, who had been out of work for 15 months and found it difficult to get a job due to her hearing impairment, is back in the workplace thanks to the support provided by Momentum Skills' Work Choice programme.

Gillian Bowie, age 33, has secured her dream job as a photographer with a home furnishings business – despite facing barriers to employment due to communication problems and the need to use lip reading techniques.



Despite her self confidence being initially dented, Gillian is enjoying her new lease of life – work wise, socially and financially - thanks to the programme's coaching which has helped her get a full time role with Premier Housewares in Glasgow.

Gillian's employment support officer encouraged and supported her to take the first steps into the work environment again – and to focus on fulfilling her aspirations by utilising her skills to get a full time role behind the camera.

Gillian was assisted in a variety of ways including help to tailor her CV, contacting employers to negotiate on her behalf, brushing up her interview technique and her support worker attended her job interviews.

Gillian said: "Momentum Skills' Work Choice programme has been great for me. I had been looking for a full time job for 15 months but as soon as people read on my CV that I was deaf, they presume there will be insurmountable communication problems. This was a major setback to me, even in getting interviews for jobs.

"But the support I received has been tremendous in building up my confidence and making me believe that I would be able to get my dream job doing photography."

News update... News update... News update...

Momentum helps launch new Access Ability website

Momentum has played a leading role in the launch of an innovative website which aims to link employers with local organisations which can help to improve their business by recruiting and retraining people with disabilities.

Government-backed **Access Ability** has been set up by leading providers of Work Choice and Access to Work – the government's disability employability programmes.

The eleven different providers, including Momentum, say the website – at www.accessability.info - will help support employers to become 'disability confident', enabling their businesses to grow and reach their full potential.

An Access Ability spokesman said: "Whether businesses are recruiting someone with a disability for the first time or looking for support to retain an existing member of staff, Access Ability can direct employers to the right information from the right people, right on their doorstep."



Department for Work & Pensions

Employers can currently get access to up to £2,275 for every 18 to 24-year-old they recruit from the Work Choice programme via the government's Youth Contract wage incentive scheme.

*Meanwhile the Department for Work and Pensions has produced a new guide called **Employing disabled people and people with health conditions**. There are many valuable sources of information available to employers to help them recruit and support disabled people in employment.

This new guidance provides a summary of information and signposts to further resources to enable employers to become more confident when attracting, recruiting and retaining disabled people.

News update... News update... News update...

Customer Focus 2

Momentum Skills supports Charles to get two jobs

Momentum Skills' Work Choice programme has helped a profoundly deaf Aberdeenshire man, who has been out of work since the start of the year after developing an injury in his trade as a stone mason, back into the workplace.

Charles Keith, age 53 from Kemnay in Aberdeenshire, has secured not one but two jobs – despite facing barriers to employment due to communication problems and being demoralised after being unemployed after 37 years in his previous job.

Despite his self confidence being initially dented, Charles is enjoying his new lease of life – thanks to the programme's coaching which has helped him get roles with the nearby Fetternear Fruit Farm as a general labourer, and as a shelf stacker at his local Tesco.



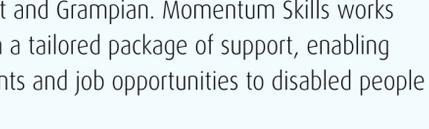
Charles was the traditional Scottish "working man" who saw his role as the main provider for his family and took it very hard when he was unable to continue in his trade after suffering from White Finger, an injury that can affect the dexterity in the hands and is caused by continuous work with vibration tools.

It was Charles first experience of being unemployed and he became worried about his financial stability – but his employment support officer encouraged and supported him to take the first steps into the work environment again, by persuading him he had a number of transferable skills which could be utilised in other roles and working environments.

Charles said: "The support I received has been tremendous in building up my self esteem, and making me believe that I had useful skills – such as being a driver - that would help me get another job. And I have ended up with two!"

About Momentum Skills' Work Choice Programme

Momentum Skills, part of the leading not-for-profit organisation Momentum, delivers the Work Choice programme in the Highlands and Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian. Momentum Skills works with partners to provide employers with a tailored package of support, enabling them to offer work experience placements and job opportunities to disabled people participating in the programme.



We have a bank of committed and enthusiastic candidates ready to fulfil your staffing needs and we will work with you to find the best person for the job – saving you both time and money.

Want to know more?

If you would like to find out more, or wish to offer job opportunities or work placements at your organisation, contact Momentum Skills today:

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