

Dianne Theakston

Dianne's Story....

Dianne has a Masters Degree in Housing. However she had failed to gain employment in housing for over six years.



Dianne is a blind person and has an assistance dog. Usual methods of recruitment and selection failed to address her complex and specific access requirements.

On joining Professional Careers in 2008, when Dianne was 27 years old, GCIL undertook to address the following:

- compatibility issues between Dianne's access software, and the database used by her placement provider.

Professional Careers commissioned a software programme that enabled both systems to “talk to each other” thus allowing Dianne to access the database and to be fully involved in all aspects of the post.

As this database system is used widely across the United Kingdom, developing the software to make it accessible enables people with visual impairments to have access to a wider range of positions within the housing organisations across the country.

and

- a support worker to carry out administration duties.

All achieved with no cost and minimum impact to the placement provider.

With the appropriate arrangements in place Dianne thrived in her job. As a result, she is now working on the completion of her Doctorate in Housing, with a view to a long-term career in Housing.

.At the end of the placement Dianne commented:

“The traineeship provided me with a unique opportunity to get hands on experience that has greatly increased my self esteem and sense of self worth within society.”