

Ryan MacDonald

Ryan's story.....

Ryan, who was always interested in pursuing a career in sports and was a programme director with a YMCA in Maryland, USA completed a Higher National Diploma in Sports and Fitness. He had to stop work and return to Scotland due to a mobility impairment resulting from a tic-bite that left him requiring the use of a wheelchair.

Ryan was unemployed for 7 years and was finding it difficult to secure employment, despite applying for a large number of jobs, including organisations that use the 'Positive about disabled people' symbol. During this time he worked as a volunteer coach in disability sport and playwork services.



In 2010, when Ryan was 29, he applied to the Professional Careers Programme and after a successful interview he was invited to join the programme. In June of the same year Ryan joined SHARE as a trainee Marketing and Research Assistant after being interviewed for and offered a paid 30 month traineeship with this placement provider.

Ryan was delighted to start work at SHARE and alongside his daily work

and ongoing training, Ryan was encouraged through the Programme to start his Level 4 Diploma in Housing at the City of Glasgow College in September 2010 and completed the course in May 2012. Ryan was awarded a merit pass for eight of the ten assignments. Ryan was also supported by GCIL Professional Careers to complete the Academic Foundation in Housing course and his European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

Ryan was keen to widen his overall housing experience and while at SHARE he was placed at Provanhall Housing Association for half a day a week. His attitude and workload impressed them greatly and following a competitive interview Ryan successfully secured a full-time housing assistant post from March 2011.

On leaving the programme, Ryan commented:

“The programme has changed my life, my confidence and self-belief are back and I can see a clear career path in front of me. I now believe that I am part of the working world and will succeed in carving out a career of my choice.”

His career path since 2011 has gone from strength to strength. Leaving Provanhall Housing Association in 2013 he joined Housing Options Scotland as a Housing Options Broker. In 2015, Ryan was promoted to Senior Housing Options Broker and in 2016 he was given the role of Housing Options Service Manager.



Ryan was nominated by his director at Housing Options Scotland to attend the [Windsor Leadership Trust](#), Emerging Leaders Programme, a prestigious residential leadership management programme held at Windsor Castle. Ryan described his attendance as ‘incredible’.

Ryan recently described what he thought of the Professional Careers Programme. *“The professional careers programme came along at exactly the right time for me. I was finding it extremely difficult to get to the interview stage when applying for jobs that I was over-qualified for. The PCP gave me the chance to gain paid work place experience, which can make a huge difference when completing job applications. It also gave me great confidence to see that I could be a valuable asset in any workplace, something I was beginning to doubt about myself. I really can’t put into words the positive impact that the programme has had on both myself and my family”.*