

## **Adult Achievement Awards: learner case study #2**

### **Shawn Doherty, Adult Learning, West Lothian Council**

#### **Introducing Shawn**

Shawn Doherty takes part in courses delivered by West Lothian Council's adult learning service. He also volunteers for Age Scotland and has worked in one of their shops for almost three years.

In 2017 Shawn achieved an Adult Achievement Award at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 3.

#### **Shawn's learning journey**

Shawn achieved his Award by reflecting on his voluntary work with Age Scotland. During the time Shawn was working towards his Award he was responsible for steaming clothes and sorting stock in the Age Scotland shop.

The Award gave Shawn an opportunity to show himself that he could achieve a qualification. He says:

It gave me a challenge. At the time I had low confidence. I never thought I'd see it through to be honest, but I got there. I surprised myself by doing it and found that I could do more than I ever thought I could. It was hard at times, but I got good support from my tutor.

#### **The difference the Award has made to Shawn**

For Shawn the major benefit of undertaking the Award has been his improved confidence. He says:

There hasn't been any part of my life that hasn't changed to be honest. It's brought me out of my shell, it's made me more confident speaking to people – I wouldn't have done this case study a year ago.

Since achieving the Award Shawn has passed his driving test. He has also undertaken further training in work. He says:

I've got more responsibility at the shop. I've now passed my till training and am working on the till. I'm trained on everything in the shop now.

#### **What next for Shawn?**

Shawn is now doing a creative writing course and his tutor is helping him to write his 'story':

I'm hoping to write my story and how I've come through everything I've dealt with, and if that helps other people then it's a job well done.

#### **What Shawn would say to other potential learners**

Shawn would encourage anyone to work towards an Award. He says:

Plain and simple, go for it! It might be hard but it's worth it. It might seem a lot of work when you first get told about it, but it's worth it in the end.