



## Case Study - Robert Shaw

Robert joined the Building Better Opportunities project at FACET on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017. He has been very clear from the outset that he would very much like to work at anything at all but his accident has left him unsure of his options and feeling very restricted by his brain injury.

The project has given Robert opportunities to try new things like furniture restoration. This has allowed Robert to develop his own ideas and see that he can achieve things. Through using his practical skills Robert has started to recognise he does have abilities which may potentially be possible to apply in a work environment.

Prior to his accident Robert was involved in growing vegetables and grew up working on the land. He felt that this was something he may not now be able to do. The project gave him the opportunity to take a leading role in our garden design project. He has identified soil types, shade areas etc with a thorough professional attitude to planning the area. A driving force in the building of planters, cutting, drilling, painting and sawing have also played a part in showing Robert the great skills he still has.

Robert has started to try a few ideas surrounding use of a diary to help him improve the way he supports his memory difficulties. This will hopefully lead to improved organisational skills and lessen anxieties. He now has one to one support at home twice a day.

The opportunity for a supported work placement cleaning at one of the shops came up recently and Robert was keen to try this out. He approaches every task with determination and always sees things through however long it takes. Robert has a strong work ethic, if a job needs doing, he gets on with it and gets the job done.

Robert has also been involved in a work placement maintaining a community garden area and a commercial garden. He takes the lead on this, identifying what needs doing and prioritising the tasks to be completed on each session.

Robert is reviewing his skills and rediscovering his abilities through his work on the project. As time passes significant changes in his attitude have started to emerge. He appears to be engaging more with other people and growing in confidence. He is more active during the week and looking at possible new opportunities for both work and leisure pursuits. Robert is now volunteering on a community garden project. He appears to have started to realise that he does still have skills that are valid and useful. Robert is now attending a specialist head injury support service.



Robert on:

**What did I feel about work before the program?**

I would like to work and have always wanted to.

**How do I feel about work now?**

I would like to work but it is becoming more evident that my health is against me.

**Did you have any work experience placements before the FACET gardening?**

Yes, numerous including gardening, retail and printing.

**Has being part of the project made any difference to your life?**

It has given me more things to do. I now have regular external one to one support in my home and attend a specialist project in Peterborough.

**What did you think of the support you received from the project?**

Support is fine.