

Prison Development Advisor

“Around 2007, I was made redundant with many others from the YMCA. It was a huge thing for me as I'd worked there for 10 years.

We talked about what I wanted in the future, and also about my passion for working with dads and men, which I didn't want to just leave behind.

I applied for a job with a fatherhood charity, and I needed to prepare a presentation. I was up against some really good people, there were 10 of us altogether. I had to do a 5-minute presentation and you helped me outline what I should and shouldn't say. This gave me the confidence I had lost after losing my job. My presentation was the required 5 minutes because I timed it beforehand. The other presentations went over time and some were all over the place. I stood out there and it got me through the first stage. At lunchtime quite a few people were asked to leave, so it was very important that I did well.

I went through the whole interview process and I was short-listed, and then they offered me a part-time job - which was exactly what I wanted!

More recently and again traumatically, I lost my job with the fatherhood charity through redundancy and I came to see you again. It was also a difficult time financially, going down to the wire. I talked with you about self-employment. It was really good to have a sounding board and to talk things over, because one hasn't readily got that elsewhere - you can't easily talk to a mate over a pint. We met during the day, it was a set time and it was targeted. The purpose of it was to get me out of the doldrums, and that's what it did - it was very helpful.

Since then things have worked out amazingly. I've got a new job now, and I was headhunted for it, which was good. It's a really interesting job - I work with men in prisons and I've just finished delivering my first course at a private prison in the northwest. It's a perfect match again for me.”

This testimony is the transcript of a 'client review' phone call and is used with permission.



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