CASE STUDY: Building Futures

Paul Barnard, Team Talk

BACKGROUND

Paul took part in the Building Futures programme in July 2014. It was a programme delivered by WLS New Build in partnership with Ixion Holdings for the client Network Housing Group (Waylands House) in London. The Wates Building Futures project champions were Damon Willicombe (WLS Construction Manager) and Matt Gilbert (WLS Site Manager).

Paul is 53 years old and a Network Housing Group resident. He has lived on the Waylands House estate since 1984 and
Paul has worked on and off in the building trade since leaving school. Paul took a break from the building trade to become a HGV driver and then decided to return to college in 2007 and gain some formal Electrical qualification.

WHAT INTERESTED YOU INITIALLY IN APPLYING?

For me work had dried up and I saw it as a real opportunity to take another step towards a permanent employment role within the building trade.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE COURSE?

All of it. The programme was an eye opener I even learnt some new construction skills such as plumbing and fittings which has helped to make me more well-rounded and skilled as a worker.

WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE?

I learnt that I had underestimated myself and that my age was not a barrier to finding full time employment. The course also opened a lot of doors for me such as being introduced to people who I would never have met e.g. Damon of Wates"

WHAT DOES BEING BACK IN FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT MEAN TO YOU?

Having been unemployed for a period of time I had started to lose confidence in my abilities. Now I've got money in my back pocket again at the weekend! Working has given back my sense of self-worth that I felt I had lost in the past.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL?

I would love to gain a JRB Gold Card which could provide me with endless work opportunities.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEBODY THINKING ABOUT TAKING PART IN THIS COURSE?

"Go for it, because ultimately, nothing tried is nothing gained."