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### **GFirst helps Gloucester job seeker get the role he wanted**

After months of trying to find work Mohammed Saib had almost given up hope.

But then the 24-year-old was referred to GFirst, the company that drives Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, to take part in the Government's Work Programme and has never looked back.

Mohammed from Gloucester said: "I had worked in care ever since I left school but then I decided I didn't want to do that anymore and started looking for other jobs that would be more suited to me. I wanted to do accountancy or something office based but when I was applying for jobs I kept getting rejected because I didn't have the experience. I had been on benefits for about two years and was getting quite disheartened and then I got referred to the Work Programme."

The Work Programme is a Government initiative for people that are on Jobseeker's Allowance and trying to get into work. It is open to people between 16 and 24 that have been out of work for nine months or more and for people 25 and over that have been out of work for a year or more.

Job seekers like Mohammed receive tailored and individualised support from GFirst advisers including CV writing, job search, training and appropriate work experience.

Mohammed started work experience with Gloucestershire Enterprise Limited where he carried out a range of office duties including invoicing, filing, letter writing, data entry and making telephone calls.

He said: "The placement allowed me to get a lot of skills which looked good on my CV and as a result I have got an apprenticeship in the line of work I wanted."

Mohammed will start an apprenticeship in Accountancy at Cotswold Property Management in the next few weeks.

He added: "Without the placement I would not have been able to get the job. From working with GFirst I was recommended for the placement at Gloucestershire Enterprise and from there I was recommended for the apprenticeship. I had been on benefits for nearly two years and I have been trying to get a job and was starting to lose hope but the Work Programme has really helped me get this job, which I hope I will stay in for a long time."

But the Work Programme hasn't only been beneficial for Mohammed, Michaela Cozens, his employer at Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd, said he has been a great asset to the organisation.

She said: "Before taking Mohammed on we were a bit worried about having someone here for a placement. We were concerned that there wouldn't be enough for him to do and that our work

would suffer while we were training him on tasks but Mo has been fantastic. We had a short health and safety visit but it took no time at all.

“He has been able to help in a range of departments in our company, and he has flourished in any task we have given him and it really is a shame to lose him. We hope he does well in his apprenticeship and we will certainly be taking on more people from the Work Programme in the future.”

Job seekers will be referred to the Work Programme by their local Job Centre but companies wanting to take someone on under the Work Programme should call Jason Dunsford at GFirst on 0800 002 9838 or email [jason.dunsford@glosfirst.co.uk](mailto:jason.dunsford@glosfirst.co.uk).



