

National European Social Fund Learning Works Award Winner

Danny West, London

Danny West – My background is in social work, I worked in the London local authority back in 1985 and it was exactly in that year at the age of 24 that I was one of the first people to be diagnosed HIV positive here in the UK. I was given a life expectancy of a year to 18 months so obviously in that time I went into complete shock. I decided to actually leave work completely and then lived on benefits for 15 years.

Danny West (coaching) – You certainly have charisma and you certainly have presence.

Andy Hilton (Result Coaching) – Danny through talking to other people and through thinking about his life decided that he did want to get back out and do something.

Danny West – Because the focus had shifted very much from one of dying with HIV to one of living with HIV.

Andy Hilton – Danny started his own company working with people with disabilities and long term illnesses to help them overcome their barriers to making their life what they want it to be.

Danny West – I gained a management qualification and I qualified as a coach at distinction level. It's been hard work but I feel like I am really contributing something. I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing people and travel the world. In a sense it's been the life of my dreams. I'm doing all the things that I ever imagined I could possibly do but thought I couldn't do.