

**ESF Outstanding Learner of the Year  
Matthew Davis**

Matthew: When I was young, always in trouble at school really. I only got one qualification, maths. I was just smoking weed every day, dosing with the lads like. Drinking, fighting all the time. I went to prison. I went three times. Then my daughter was born while I was in prison on the third occasion like. So that made me change my ways. Do you know what I mean? The fact that I had something good to look forward to.

Aime Peckover (Steps to Work, Walsall): Matthew started at Steps to Work in 2008.

Matthew: I done Maths and English Level 2. I done Money Management, Financial Planning, NVQ Business Administration.

Aime: He was with us a few weeks then he did a work placement where he was working as a key worker, supporting other customers that were long-term unemployed. Matt did an outstanding job and so we offered him a temporary contract. He'd have soft targets such as attending anger management once a week and also drugs and alcohol counselling once a week. Matt very quickly became a very strong part of the team and still is very much so a big part of the team.

Matthew: When I was bad troubles at school, no-one ever pushed me to get on with it. You know, I don't want that for her. I want to be there to push her, do you know what I mean? Through college, through university. Get herself a good career, do you know what I mean? Not mess up like I did.