

Five Lamps - Employability

Aalia Ali, 30, had been unemployed for over 3 years after finding it difficult to find work.

Although Ali had an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration, she had found it difficult to find work. Ali first heard about Five Lamps in March 2010 through Cultures, who signed her up to their Communities Fund programme in Stockton.

Cultures work with people from disadvantaged black and minority ethnic (BME) and refugee communities to help them find work and access training. Ali attended a course ran by Cultures called RAWE (Raising Awareness of British Work Ethics), which gave her an insight into what is expected when applying for jobs in this country.

Ali said *“The course helped to improve my confidence and motivation to find work”*.

After Ali attended the course, she was further supported by Cultures on a regular basis to do job searches, write her CV and improve her language skills.

Ali became so interested in the work of Cultures that when a job came up with them, she applied. Since June 2010, she has been working for them as an Employability Support Worker and has just completed her 26 week job retention.

Ali said *“I feel very fortunate that I have found work with Cultures as I receive a lot of in-work support”*.

Five Lamps supports organisations like Cultures by referring customers who need specialist support. Five Lamps provided the funding to Cultures to enable them to run the RAWE course.