

### Know How North East - Employability

Taking the first step of walking into Newtown Community Resource centre in 2009 has enabled Lynette Maude, a lone parent of two, to start her journey towards fulfilling a lifetime ambition of becoming a Mental Health Nurse.

Dismissing the idea that there was anyone who could help her overcome the barriers she faced, Lynette had convinced herself she would never be able to escape life on benefits. But speaking to a Personal Advisor at Newtown Community Resource Centre helped Lynette realise there were opportunities available to her and that she could succeed.

After signing up to the Communities Fund programme Lynette was given individual support to undertake a programme of structured training and development. With courses provided in her community and help with fees and childcare Lynette was able to take literacy and numeracy qualifications and complete both her NVQ level 2 and start work on her NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care - all on her doorstep.

Because of the active encouragement of her Personal Advisor Richard Pattison, being a lone parent has not stopped Lynette from achieving her goals. She is currently completing the final stages of her NVQ level 3 in Health & Social Care and whilst on placement at HARBOUR, Lynette is training alongside the outreach team providing support to women who are victims of domestic abuse.

Lynette said:

*“When I first came into Newtown I lacked confidence and couldn’t see how I would be able to manage bringing up my family and training for a career. I would never have dreamt that almost three years later I would have achieved so much.”*

And the good news doesn't stop here, following successful completion of her NVQ level 3 Lynette has been selected from over 750 applicants to complete her BA Honours Degree in Mental Health Nursing, which she starts this September at Teesside University.