

New College Durham – Employability

Following a visit to a local Chapel of Rest it occurred to Shelly Hayden, an unemployed mum of five and long time resident of Hardwick that although it's not something most of us like to think about it is something we will eventually all need. That visit showed her that there was a lot more to the funeral business than she first thought and that includes helping and comforting grieving relatives something which appealed to Shelly's supportive nature.

At first Shelly was not sure how to go about finding a job at a local funeral parlour or even if she would like it. So she approached the In 2 Work project based at Hardwick in Partnership.

The In 2 Work project is funded by Stockton Council and provides a wide range of advice, support and funding for training and help to get people from Hardwick and Ragworth back into work.

Shelly's request presented an unusual challenge for the staff at the centre, but following discussions with Sarah and Andrea from the In 2 Work project it was agreed that a work trial with a local funeral parlour would give Shelly the opportunity to decide whether this was the right thing for her.

A placement was found by the In 2 Work project for Shelly at a family run firm of Irene Jessop Funeral Services in Thornaby where she is now working with Irene to learn about all aspects of the business.



Shelly says, "This is such a fantastic opportunity for me to learn how funeral homes operate and understand the procedures from start to finish. I would like to thank Sarah and Andrea from the In 2 Work Project for all their help and guidance in finding me this placement".