



## Case Study

Hamidul Islam and Sharmin Sultana  
*Bangladeshi Support Centre*

“ I was stuck trying to find a job after university, but the course has given me the confidence and the know-how to get where I want to be. The CV writing and interview skills were invaluable. ”

Hamidul Islam  
Planning Apprentice, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council

**Project:** Community Grants

**Location:** Suffolk

**Job Outcome:** Apprenticeship

The Bangladeshi Support Centre in Ipswich runs training courses to support Bangladeshi people and other minority ethnic groups in the local area. It runs a range of training courses including: Information, Advice and Guidance sessions, Pre-Entry ESOL sessions, Web design, Internet and email drop-in sessions, business start-up courses, debt and money management and dressmaking. The Bangladeshi Support Centre is able to run this programme thanks to a grant from the Community Grants project, which is managed by TCHC and funded by the European Social Fund.

Hamidul Islam found out about the project through the Project Coordinator at the Bangladeshi Support Centre. He had been having trouble getting a job after graduating from University but he learned about the support that the project would give him. Sharmin Sultana also participated, she found out about the project through family and friends. To her, it was an excellent opportunity to learn English as she had come to the UK a year earlier with no English and no job. She had been excluded from learning English in mainstream organizations and for cultural reasons, did not feel it was appropriate to join mixed gender classes. She was attracted by the thought of an all women class and having a bilingual female course facilitator to guide her through any problems she had.

They both had an Initial Information, Advice and Guidance session to assess their needs. Hamidul and Sharmin then received training as a group, as well as additional one-to-one support, followed by CV and interview workshops to give them the skills to get a job. Sharmin also had English lessons, which she found really useful and easy to follow. She now has an excellent command of English and has made friends at the centre too.

They have both benefited from the project enormously. Hamidul utilized the confidence and useful contacts he gained to get a job as an apprentice. He believes he will be able to progress in his career much more easily now.

Sharmin has improved her English enormously and this has helped her settle into a new country. She now has the confidence and knowledge to get a job once she has obtained the right to work.

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