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# Lucas' story:

## Standing on your own feet after being out of work



Lucas\* (24) from Leeds came to the Future Forward programme in search of direction regarding his career. He had been out of work for over two years and struggled to get back on track. Having also dealt with homelessness and health issues, Lucas wanted to be more proactive in his life and step into a brighter future.

Lucas met with Ben, a Young Person Adviser from Future Forward. Together, they discussed what support Lucas might benefit from on his journey and how they could explore his options.

### How did we help?

Initially, when joining the programme, Lucas' focus was on finding work and developing his understanding of his finances. He had a proactive attitude and was ready to throw himself into new opportunities.

Firstly, Ben and Lucas worked through the Pathways Star, a model used to map out one's journey and aspirations for the duration of the programme and to identify next steps. Lucas took his first step towards understanding his finances by going through the [Better Off](#) calculator with Ben to determine possible benefits he could claim.

Lucas was then referred to Money Buddies, a key pilot of the Future Forward programme that provides more in-depth financial advice and guidance.

### Standing on your own feet

In a second step, Lucas developed his CV with Ben and learned to tailor applications to vacancies that interested him. Lucas also attended a four-week work experience placement with a local employer which was a great opportunity to connect with people in a new environment and broaden his experiences.

In the beginning, Lucas flagged that he was worried about being able to afford transport to get to and from work and for purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE). Future Forward supported Lucas by arranging payment for these expenses, meaning he could travel to and from work with ease and had the necessary equipment.

At the end of the placement, Lucas had made a great impression and was offered a job with the same company!

Lucas reports that Future Forward's support has helped him find purpose and, ultimately, employment. He says:

“

[Ben] was amazing help and helped me find a job really fast. He was polite and really helpful and did an amazing job, thank you.

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Lucas (24)



\*We have given the participant a pseudonym to protect their identity.