

Case study 2: self-employment

Having worked in the gas industry since he was a teenager, Tony Glover (59) from Sinfin, Derby, was shell-shocked after being made redundant in 2009.

Tony, who had previously never been out of work, had his career reignited thanks to the job support and advice from the project Skills for Jobs, funded by the European Social Fund. This project is delivered by Tribal Employability and Skills, who have offices in Nottingham and Derby. He now has a full-time job as well as fulfilling his ambition to run his own gas fitting and repair business.

Tony explains: “After having 44 years’ experience in this industry, I felt confident I would get back into work quickly, but the recession had hit even harder than I had realised.

“I had never had to prepare a CV before or fill out a job application, as I had always got jobs via word of mouth, so realised I needed to get some expert help.”

After hearing about Tribal, Tony set up a meeting with adviser Emma Dalby and told her it was his dream to set up his own business, but had no experience and very limited knowledge in this area.

Emma said: “I could see that despite the knock to Tony’s confidence after the shock of being made redundant he was determined to get back into work.

“I was able to give one-to-one advice and help present his wealth of qualifications, knowledge and experience of the gas industry in his CV. I then referred him to my colleague, Jon Archard who specialises in new business advice.”

Tony had a productive meeting with Jon to talk about business loans and grants, how to write a business plan, how to do cash forecasts and where to find specific support available for people over 50. Jon continued to support and advise Tony through the first three months of his venture.

Tony added: “I found the help from both Emma and Jon extremely useful and encouraging in helping to move my part-time business forward, which is called ‘The Gasman’, serving homes in and around the Sinfin area of Derby. I’m also working full time for EIC, a national building services company based in Warwickshire, which means I’m keeping busy and expanding my skills.”