

Supporting Parents into Work: Case Studies

Case Study 1: Sasha

Sasha is a lone parent with a 4-year-old son who is in nursery every afternoon and due to start school in August. She is currently living in temporary accommodation (which is very expensive).

Sasha is keen to get back into work as she feels this will improve her circumstances as well as her mental health. At one of her first meetings with her key worker, they discussed that this might not be the right time to look for work as, due to her housing situation, her contribution to her rent would increase.

She was determined to apply for a security role that had been identified, therefore an up-to-date Better Off Calculation was arranged. Her current household income is approx. £1,624.89 per month but with a move to a 24hour per week job, this increased to £1,896.61 (an increase of £271.72 per month).

Whilst this is not a huge financial improvement now, this will increase once she moves out of temporary accommodation. However, Sasha sees the improvement more about gaining up to date work experience as well as giving her a routine and improving her mental health.

Sasha was able to access three months' travel support as well as the PES transition fund to support her during the first couple of months in work.

Case Study 2: Jane

Jane reached out to the parental employability support service as a low-income lone parent with two children under the age of five. She was looking for a role to help earn more money, but still have time to support the children.

Jane hadn't worked for over four years as she had started a family but felt the time was right to look for work. She lacked confidence and needed support to update her employability skills, including a CV. The advisor got to work on her CV and supporting her job searching. Jane was supported to look at different options in line with her interests, skills and ambitions.

Jane was offered a work trial with a company. To ensure it was the right role financially, her advisor sent her to Advice Works for a Better Off Calculation. As a result, she was advised that she would be approximately £485.64 better off each month.

Jane was offered the role after a work trial, where she was able to showcase her excellent people skills, and felt much more confident to take on the role and ensure her family would be better off financially.

Jane is delighted that she has the social interaction of being in work, independence, and flexibility to support her family. The project were able to offer support with the first month of childcare and support to apply for the government offer of 85% childcare costs paid, but did not require it as the hours she was offered, matched the childcare support she had in place.

The project were also able to offer three transition and travel payments to support her to make the transition to work, which she was very grateful for and relieved that a lot of financial stress was taken away, whilst adapting to the changes a new job brings.

Thanks to [Invest in Renfrewshire](#) for supplying the case studies.