

1b4

CV

Do

Support the person to write their own curriculum vitae about employment or another area of their own life.

Story

‘A user of day services branded ‘unemployable’ for many years exhibited such antisocial behaviour – violence to other users, setting fire to property, taking mechanical property to pieces and other abusive behaviours – that he was permanently accompanied by a ‘minder’ when in the day centre.

An employment adviser developed a job for him in the local authority machinery maintenance department ... it was found that far from being unemployable, none of the behaviours exhibited in the day service ever showed themselves in work and he became indispensable in stripping down complex machinery and carrying out maintenance. He is still employed in this job as a valued member of staff.’

(Leach 2002, p53)

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Hints & Hazards

Do a 'life chart' showing periods of illness and wellness, or periods of learning and non-learning, work and non-work etc. This can reframe people's lives by focusing on positives rather than negatives. It can also help people see that they have other aspects of life that keep going alongside illness or crisis.

A CV selects areas of success and achievements and presents the person to others in a positive light. This could be done for either a vocational or non-vocational audience. Structuring a CV chronologically might reveal gaps. Some people will prefer to structure according to interest. Reframe 'gaps' by looking at what the person was doing (e.g. full time parenting rather than working full time). MAPS (1a2) might help you draw up a history. Some people might choose to make a CV with pictures, photos, video or audio tape.