

FROM THE COMMUNITY

A helping hand into employment

BY DANIEL FINEMAN

Despite the large amount of support available for homeless people in London there is very little for those who just need the opportunity to take the first steps back into work. HandyHelp Co, formed in 2010 by Clean Slate Training and Employment, offers employment for long-term jobseekers that have been affected by homelessness.

A recent success story is Dane Wick who has lived in Lambeth all his life. Two years ago he was made redundant from his caretaking job and after suffering difficulties at home Dane found himself homeless.

Dane explains: "I was living with my dad but unfortunately he started suffering from dementia, it wasn't his fault - he didn't know what he was doing, but he started smashing things up. He ended up in a home and I ended up on the streets."

A diabetic all his life, he approached Lambeth Council for support who signposted him to 3dfd (Three Dimensions of Care for Diabetes) based at Thames Reach, Stockwell Road which also houses Clean Slate.

Dane was introduced to Gary Grant, one of Clean Slate's Work Champions, who suggested he take their two day induction after which he would be eligible for work with HandyHelp Co.

After completing the induction in February and graduating from a painting and decorating course, Dane has been working for

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Dane Wick

HandyHelp Co for much of 2014. He has recently been offered a full-time position caretaking on the Cowley Estate in Brixton.

Clean Slate's doors are open to everyone



Maureen Witter and Gary Grant, Clean Slate work champions

If you're struggling to find work no matter what barriers to employment may be in place. Jobseekers can drop into their Stockwell office (10am to 2pm Mondays and Fridays), call 020 3540 7420 and leave a message or email london@cleanslateltd.co.uk

For more information, visit www.cleanslateltd.co.uk

CleanSlate
Training & Employment

Clean Slate, Thames Reach Training Centre, Elmfield House, 5 Stockwell Mews, Stockwell Road, SW9 9GX.

For more information on how to book HandyHelp Co, visit www.handyhelp.org call 020 3540 7421 or email help@handyhelp.co.uk