

Former Clwyd Alyn resident turns her life around through a pioneering training initiative

19 year old Beccie Barnes from North Wales turned her life around and found a new job after achieving accredited qualifications through the Opening Doors, Enhancing Lives programme.

Beccie said: "When I was 17, following a family relationship breakdown, I became a resident of one of the outreach properties of Y Dyfodol the Supported Living Scheme Managed by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association in Rhyl.

At the time, I really lacked self-confidence and the thought of attempting any training made me feel very anxious."

With the support and guidance of Clwyd Alyn project workers, who are fully trained assessors, Beccie enrolled on the pioneering Opening Doors and Enhancing Lives (ODEL) programme.

The ODEL programme, which is accredited by Agored Cymru, was developed to help learners grow in confidence and independence, and find employment by gaining new skills and achieving accredited qualifications.

Beccie continues, "...the support from everyone at Clwyd Alyn didn't just mean that I had confidence and qualifications to take to future employers, it also gave me a new outlook on life....

... the ODEL programme offers recognised qualifications and because you already know the support workers it helps you get over any nervousness."

Since the ODEL programme was launched in 2012, 205 ODEL certificates have been awarded to learners in Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham County Borough areas.

Beccie said: *“ODEL provides good training in life-skills. The fact I was able to get a job and keep up with the ODEL training is a real tribute to the encouragement of Clwyd Alyn.*

This programme helped me make a fresh start. It provided me with practical skills and helped me rebuild family relationships...

...being homeless can really knock your self confidence. This training has been really empowering and helped me to become more independent.”

The ODEL programme is just one example of activities being delivered across Wales in partnership with Agored Cymru, to support the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Agenda.