

GFSL's CRED scheme successful first hire paves the way for more recruits

Press release

Hollesley Bay prison leaver has carved out a new career at HMP Highpoint.



GFSL's CRED (Clean Rehabilitative Enabling and Decent) offered its first employment placement to a prison leaver.

Six months on, Richard Palmer has successfully completed his probation as a GFSL Escort Handyperson based at Highpoint, a Prison Officer training centre.

This has opened up new avenues for others on the GFSL CRED scheme who are eligible for work placement who can fill the vital gaps in vacancies across the establishment.

The CRED programme enables prisoners to join purposeful work placements while still in custody which help to progress them to full time work and financial independence. It also builds skills, confidence and employability.

Helena Butler, Justice Solutions Manager said:

We are proud to say that the CRED scheme has allowed Richard to transition from a custodial role to that of a full time employee. This is an important milestone for us all. Richard's success in this role has demonstrated the potential in employing prison leavers directly from our CRED programmes and paves the way for others to be employed in the future.

Richard Palmer said:

Having a secure job with GFSL has made every difference to my life. I have a stable career path which offers training. I'm grateful for all the support of my managers and peers here at Highpoint; they

are a great team to work with.'

CEO Paul Ryder summarised:

This is a shining example of how GFSL's CRED programme can make a positive difference. They are capable of making remarkable achievements in a challenging climate. We have ambitious plans to expand the scheme during 2022 so others can benefit from the learnings to date.'

Despite the 2 year pandemic, 20 GFSL sites continue to drive the CRED programme, involving over 240 residents. The trades include plumbers, electricians and carpenters. Others join the scheme and gain recognised qualifications from nearby colleges during their sentence.

Published 10 November 2021