

Care Farm Helper Case Study

Declan's Story

Declan started coming to Countryways once a week while he was at secondary school. The placement was so vital to his ongoing progress that when he left school, he continued to come to the farm with his personal assistant for a supported work placement two days a week. He really thrived in the open environment where he had the opportunity to do something practical. Initially he helped care for the livestock; for example grooming the donkeys and feeding the goats, hens, turkeys and smaller animals. The work progressed onto maintaining and managing the hedgerows, coppicing, repairing animal shelters and building dens.

There is a strong 'can do' emphasis at Countryways and the daily work provides encouragement for Declan to try new things. Over time, this helped him discover there were so many new things he could try his hand at. He grew in confidence and this helped him become more independent and confident in other aspects of his life. According to Richard, Declan's personal assistant, "The transformation in Declan since he started coming to the farm is huge. He has much more confidence in himself and in his ability to do things for himself."

He showed an aptitude and a natural interest for woodwork and has since been honing these skills under the careful, nurturing guidance of Duncan, Care Farm Leader. They've constructed hen houses, bird boxes and stools, and more recently he has begun woodturning and crafting intricate objects like wooden pens and ornaments.



"I really like the woodwork and using the tools. It feels good that I am trusted to use the tools. Coming here I have progressed more with my confidence and I have belief that I can do things." Declan says.

Declan is a hard worker and has an entrepreneurial spirit. He likes to come up with ideas for woodwork projects and see them through to completion and Countryways facilitates this. One of his favourite projects is to design and construct wooden tools

There is a definite social element to his placement at the farm, he enjoys the company of the people here and relates well with Duncan, the care farm leader. Declan says, "I like coming here, chatting with the team. I do my work and get a kick out of it."

Coming to Countryways is so important for Declan, it gives him stability and time and space to learn and practice new skills; somewhere he connects with the people and this has enabled him to grow in his confidence and ability to do more independently.

FIND OUT MORE HERE:

Email office.rfcountryways@gmail.com

Telephone 01494 862413

www.roadfarmcountryways.com