

Michelle and MeCycle success.

Michelle McCall, 20, from Crosby, was unemployed for over 12 months until she received support from Sefton@Work to get into work through a new employment initiative.

Merseytravels' Matthew Chamberlain from the Employment and Skills Team advised Sefton@Work about a new Employer Initiative Fund that could support a social enterprise to recruit a young person into a transport-related role.

Autism Ventures (part of Autism Initiatives) were about to open a Mecycle Café and were ideal to benefit from the new fund. Jon Gordon the Social Enterprise Manager explained the concept of the Mecycle Café "After doing research I knew that this was an opportunity to build a sustainable social enterprise that our client base can use. We wanted a new approach to selling bikes, offering free maintenance sessions on site and to offer community cycle rides and walks around Ainsdale. After speaking to Sefton @ Work, they informed me they could assist us to access funds to support long term unemployed individuals back into sustainable employment, and they could help us to recruit."

Sefton@Work offer a bespoke recruitment and selection service to all Sefton businesses and advertised for the Mecycle Café Assistant, pre-selecting the best applicants for Jon to interview.

Michelle was thrilled to be chosen for this very varied and diverse role.

Michelle now prepares and serves food and drink, sells cycles and equipment and is also training to become a cycle leader. In addition Michelle will support people with Autism when they are on work placements in the café and will receive training in Manual Handling, First Aid and Autism Practice.

Jon remarked "Michelle has become an immediate asset to the team and we are looking to keep her here permanently"

Michelle added "Being unemployed for a long period of time had a negative effect on my life, since working at Mecycle Café I have grown in confidence, I love working in the team and I don't want to leave". When you are unemployed it is difficult sometimes to get out of bed but at the moment I have a purpose and I am learning at every opportunity"

You can visit the Mecycle Café at 59 Station Road, Ainsdale 01704579353 or visit them at:

<https://www.facebook.com/mecyle>



Michelle the barista!



Michelle selling the cycles!



Jon Gordon, Mecycle, Paula Cain Sefton@Work, Michelle and Matthew Chamberlain, Merseytravel.