Good News Story

David is in his mid-50s and lives on the edge of a town in North Leicestershire. He has just received his first month's pay in four years, and he is very happy about this saying that he *"could not have done this without Real Purpose"*.

When David joined our **Leicestershire Employment and Skills Programme** he said he had been impacted significantly by the pandemic and this caused social anxiety. This meant he has been isolating for the last 4 years, so much so that he had a job last year but could not sustain this as he was walking to and from work as he could not use a bus because of how anxious he was about being close to others.

David's employment adviser helped David apply for jobs, encouraging him all the way, including jobsearch, help with applications, a CV and preparing for an interview. However, while David appreciated this practical support, he says it was the confidence his adviser instilled in him which was most important, describing his adviser as *"a rock"*.

David was offered a job in May this year as a cleaner at a factory which he does part time over two shifts, plus extra hours if need be. David declares this to the DWP and his Universal Credit is adjusted to reflect this so David is never out of pocket. David and his adviser applied for *Access to Work* funding for a taxi to get to and from work due to his issue with anxiety and using buses.

David started his job and at one point walked 16 miles in 3 days, so as the *Access to Work* claim had not been processed, he tried to use a bus, and over time has built his resilience and now walks to work but gets the bus home every day he works! At one point David said the only seat was between two other passengers and he actually managed to sit in between them.

The in-work support David's adviser provides, in the form of weekly phone calls is invaluable David says and he is very happy with himself that he is sustaining his job like 70% of all Real Purpose's clients on the **Leicestershire Employment & Skills Programme.**