



# EAT PENNINES

## Staff profile

### Owen Evans



Hi I'm Owen Evans, aged 22 from Bury, Lancashire

#### **How long were you unemployed for before starting your traineeship with EAT Pennines?**

About 2 years but I completed the Princes Trust programme and took part in training and employment programmes with Training for Today and Fairbridge during that time. I also did some conservation work building paths for the National Trust in the Lake District.

#### **What challenges have you faced?**

A whole change of career. I was doing mechanics before getting interested in horticulture and landscape gardening. I had learning and behaviour issues when I was younger but have overcome these as I've got older. The main challenge now is financial as apprentice wages are very low so it's difficult but I know I'm working towards a new career and decent pay.

#### **How have we helped you?**

In every way – for example, morale support, advice, support with personal issues. Being listened to and having someone to talk to. I also gained Maths and English qualifications.

#### **Why do you enjoy working for EAT Pennines?**

I get a sense of pride when I see Heaton Park Community Garden as I helped create it and I can see what I've achieved. I enjoy working with the team here. And I enjoy the actual work itself – it's therapeutic and tranquil in the garden.

#### **What would you say to a young person thinking of starting one of our traineeships?**

It's worth doing to give you a sense of direction. No other job would offer the extra support and worker progression that EAT Pennines does.