**Daisy:** I'm Daisy, I am a Fundraiser and Events Officer.

I'm doing the fundraising apprenticeship with JGA, which I got through Essex County Council and Targeted Employment.

I work for a charity called Abberton Rural Training. We help vulnerable and isolated people in Essex get back into education, qualifications, we help them get jobs, volunteering.

I wanted to expand my knowledge and just get back into learning because I really enjoyed uni. The apprenticeship’s been really helpful in helping me achieve my role here.

I mainly write bids and grants to raise money for the charity. I'll have weekly meetings with the CEO, my line manager.

They're very flexible within my role, I can work from home and in the office, which suits my accessibility needs.

My most proud achievement would be that I've managed to raise 80,000 pounds for the charity in the year that I've been here through bids, grants, fundraising activities.

I have monthly bike events that I run and attend which I go to the Colchester site in Wormingford.

I like being able to help people and seeing the good that we do as a charity.

**Erin:** I'm Erin Lysandrou and I’m the Office Manager for Abberton Rural Training. Daisy’s fantastic. I'm most proud about her personal development, her confidence has grown.

She's had really good support through her tutors and mentors that she's had from the apprenticeship side.

**Jonathan:** My name is Jonathan Smith. I work for Essex County Council and I'm the lead for inclusion around apprenticeships. Apprenticeships can be a really viable pathway for young people with disabilities and difficulties.

**Erin:** The adaptations have been quite easy and something that we've always encouraged for all our staff.

**Daisy:** Through Access to Work, I got a programme called Dragon, which is a voice dictation app and headset. If I want to walk around and write the bids, I just talk through the headset. I don't have to be stuck at the desk and that's been really helpful.

I actually get a taxi through Access to Work. The hour and a half bus journey just wasn't feasible for me and my disability. They've been very helpful in helping me access work.

**Erin:** It's been a really seamless process, having the Access to Work programme and being able to order all the equipment she needs and to have her a home office space has been fantastic. It’s just watching her fly I guess, taking her from the Daisy she was a year ago to the Daisy she is now.

**Daisy:** My advice would be to not give up. There are many options out there to help you get to work or get an apprenticeship.

It exceeded my expectations and it has been a great thing to do and I really don't regret it and I would encourage everyone to have a think about it and do one if you want to.