

Ellys' story

Ellys always found school hard. Her teachers said she couldn't concentrate and that she wasn't interested in school work. After she left school, Ellys tried college but her experience was the same. She tried working and had quite a few jobs. However, although she was great at interviews, and learning the job, Ellys was again told by her employers' said that as she could not focus they couldn't keep on. This was obviously upsetting and Ellys felt she was a failure because people didn't understand her. Concern for her daughter led Elly's Mum to seek specialist input and she was later diagnosed with ADHD-PI and Dyslexia. This meant that because Ellys found it very hard to concentrate, it affected the whole of her life.



Yet Ellys still wanted to have a job and above all wanted to be able to provide for her family. One day she attended a hair extension course with a friend and, to her surprise, loved it. Although experiencing ADHD-PI meant that Ellys found it hard to concentrate on most things, this was not the case when it came to doing hair extensions.

Ellys had found her gift and so started trying out hair extensions with friends and family. She got all the right training and, with support from her family, set up her own small salon. Keen to grow her hobby into a proper business, Ellys was supported by her Preparing for Adulthood Facilitator at South Gloucestershire Council to get in touch with Sixteen Co-operative Ltd.

Sixteen began working with Ellys and supported her to work through some enterprise development modules. This helped her plan the business, think about finances and about how to attract customers. After lots of hard work, Elly's business is now thriving. She has a regular work schedule, can take bookings through her new website and has a marketing plan for the New Year. Her regular support from Sixteen continues to help her with her bookkeeping and business plan.

Ellys has some amazingly creative ideas and is willing to put in the commitment it takes to start a business. Sixteen looks forward to continuing to support her and her business.

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