



Furniture and Upholsterer Apprentice, Lucianne Hinch, DC Contracts

Lucianne has been at DC contracts for 5 years. She joined the company after deciding that 6th form wasn't for her and now works as an upholsterer within a small team.

Lucianne was always steered towards university at school but knew it wasn't for her.

"I have always been good with my hands and I enjoy getting stuck into things. When I got the job at DC Contracts I was delighted but the fact I was going to be working with men was quite scary and as a young woman I felt I had to prove myself."

Lucianne works in a very male orientated environment but shows that working in a physical job doesn't have to be for just men.

"I work with two men, one of them being my supervisor. When I began at DC Contracts there was only myself and Martin working there as upholsters." Lucianne said.

Lucianne's job involves her upholstering traditional and modern furniture as well as working on bespoke items. She operates power tools such as jigsaws and chop saws when making certain items and her role is very physical, but apart from muscles, it has given Lucianne a lot more self confidence. She has great communication when dealing with customers, which is an important part of the role, and she can confidently advise and discuss the best options for them.

When Lucianne started at DC Contracts, she knew absolutely nothing about upholstery and had never had a full time job before.

"I had never seen a staple gun before in my life." Continued Lucianne

But Lucianne gradually worked her way through her apprenticeship, working closely with her supervisor, Martin who has been in the trade for 40 years. From beginning with the basics Lucianne is now fully capable of advising customers, quoting on projects, and fully upholstering large pieces.

“I was quite shy at the beginning of my apprenticeship but with the help of my supervisor I am emerging as a confident skilled upholster. The skills I have gained have meant I can now be left to work alone competently.”

Lucianne loves her work and has felt that her apprenticeship has given her amazing opportunities and in which she has learnt an incredible amount.

“The opportunities that are available through skilled work are immense.”

DC Contracts states that Lucianne has brought a new lease of life into the company with her ‘femininity, youth and fresh ideas’. DC Contracts backed Lucianne and had confidence in her and now they are benefiting as the whole attitude at the company has improved.

“Lucianne has said that she started as an upholsterer because it was a job she thought she may find interesting but she has now made it her vocation. Due to Lucianne, we can now offer a much better service with good customer relations” Martin Randall, DC Contracts.

Lucianne’s hard work and achievements have certainly reaped its rewards and in 2009 she was highly commended for her achievements during her Making and Installing Furniture Apprenticeship, at the Proskills Annual Apprenticeship Awards 2009.