



**Alan Menzies of Silsden**

### **Background of business**

For single parent Alan Menzies, of Silsden, running his own small business provides the flexible hours he needs, as well as generating a steady income. He formed AM Electrical in March 2008, primarily working in Addingham, Silsden and Steeton. Qualified to handle most types of electrical work, Alan also has experience in carpentry, plumbing and tiling.

### **Support journey**

When considering self-employment as an option, Alan sought advice from JobcentrePlus, who recommended him to contact Kickstart at Airedale Enterprise Services. Phil Harrison, the programme's Keighley-based Business Counsellor, advised him on the support available, including professional services. As a result, Alan now has a full suite of business stationery, including letterheads, compliment slips, business cards and promotional leaflets designed and produced by Kickstart supplier Localife, of Bingley. The company also designed a website for Alan's business.

### **Where they are now**

Alan is encouraged by the number of enquiries generated by distributing his promotional leaflets door to door in his prime catchment area. He is already busy and remains confident that his business will become sustainable. Running his own business is giving him the flexible hours he needs, especially when sharing the care of his five-year-old son. He also has responsibility for two other sons, aged 14 and 16. Phil Harrison and Kickstart are sound, says Alan, who works from his home in Beckside Court, Silsden.

**Background Information.**

Client Name: Alan Menzies

Ward in which trading or resident: Silsden

Wards in which resident: Silsden

Business Name: AM Electrical

Address (business address): 5 Becksid Court, Silsden.

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Any further comments:

Alan was offered the opportunity to apply for the ~~test~~ trading initiative but preferred not to do so.