

**MIKE BURT**

**EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE**



In the below piece, Mike, a long-standing member of the Ci team, shares his experience to date with the business.

**What degree did you gain and from which university?**

BSc Maths with Economics at University of Exeter

**When did you start work at Centerprise?**

I officially became a permanent member of staff in February 1999

**How did you first start at Centerprise?**

When I finished my degree at University I wasn't sure exactly what it was I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to do something in relation to Finance (although ironically not Accountancy). I had applied for a couple of Graduate positions without success so I needed to start work to pay my keep, now I was living back at home with my parents.

I registered with a local recruitment agency, Merit Recruitment, and started temporary work immediately doing a whole range of jobs from cleaning in the kitchens at Basingstoke and North Hants Hospital, to packing sandwiches.

I then started a temporary assignment within the Logistics department at Centerprise. The role was making sure each Field Engineer had a flight case packed with components required for their jobs the following day.

**How did you end up in the Finance Department?**

A position became available in the credit control team and the Financial Director at the time heard about my degree and invited me to interview for the position. I did and was successful, and the rest as they say is history.

**How did your career progress within the Finance Department at Centerprise?**

I moved from Credit Control to be Purchase Ledger Supervisor then back to Credit Control to be Credit Manager. I was then promoted to Ledger Supervisor, looking after both sales and purchase ledger and over time that role became Ledger Manager with added responsibilities. Latterly I moved to my current role of Business Finance Manager in 2016.

**What does your current role involve?**

There are a number of different strands to my current role. I look after the Central Support and Purchasing team who process sales and purchase orders for the business and within Business Finance, we also manage supplier rebates, stock provisions and cross department billing, assist with the implementation and delivery of large sales projects through our SAP system, help with Financial Analysis of the business to individual sales teams and the CEO.

I also take an active role in the weekly Operations meeting that review all internal company processes with a view to improving efficiency where necessary.

**What do you think are the main reasons why you have stayed at Centerprise so long?**

The company has been able to meet my career aspirations over time. The office environment has always been an enjoyable one to work in and living nearby is a great help and allows me to find a great work/family balance.

I have a great relationship with all the Senior Management in the business and am passionate about the company and care about its success.

**What would you say is your greatest achievement at Centerprise?**

There have been a few, but probably being part of the "Key Worker" team that played a pivotal role in the implementation of our SAP system.

**What is most challenging about working at Centerprise?**

Being the dynamic business that we are things appear on my workload very quickly, so it is a constant battle to review my tasks and prioritise them as best I can and also ensure that tasks are completed before moving on to the next one.

**What advice would you give to anyone starting out on a career at Centerprise?**

No matter what level you are starting at, always take the time to learn what every role in your department does and if necessary the roles of those outside your department that you work with closely.

Having an understanding of what your colleagues are doing and trying to achieve puts you in a much better position to be of greater value to your colleagues and the business as a whole.

**Why would you recommend Centerprise as a place to work?**

I think it is widely acknowledged that the people within Centerprise are what make it special - I have been lucky enough to make a number of close friends over my time here. I also think that the business' ability to adapt to the markets we are working in, are what make it an exciting place to work.

It is also somewhere that if you are prepared to work hard and try to over deliver on your KPIs, then your success will be rewarded.