



Employment Strategy 'Opportunities for Work'



Information designed and produced by Valued Promotions who employ the skills and talents of people with learning disabilities in public relations, conference and event management and accessible information.



Valued Promotions
Byfleet House
2 Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey KT 16 9BJ
Telephone 01932 567666
Fax 01932 568187
email vp@welmede.org.uk

Introduction



•The Government wants more people with learning disabilities to have a job.



•Valuing People tells Partnership Boards what plans must be put in place to make this happen.



What has happened so far?

•In Surrey we set up EMPLOYABILITY - Our Supported Employment Scheme a few years ago.

•EMPLOYABILITY does the following :



Looks at people's skills and interests to see what jobs they could do.

Helps people get a job.



Gives information about benefits

Offers job coaching and training where people work.

Supports people where they work to help them settle in and learn the job - usually for 6 weeks.



Helps people to change jobs if they want.



About **240 people** now have a paid job in the community and **60 people** are in work experience all supported by **EMPLOYABILITY**

People work in lots of different ways

Retail Shops
70 people

DEBENHAMS
BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE DEPARTMENT STORE



WOOLWORTHS
WELL WORTH IT

Sainsbury's
making life taste better



Supermarkets
47 people

Domestic and General Cleaning
43 people



Catering - Pubs, hotels, fast food, coffee bars
41 people



Looking after children or the elderly
23 people



Office Work + IT
21 people



Employment Projects



Surrey Supported Employment Project

Employability has money from Europe to set up a partnership with Work Links, Project 18, Geesemere and Oakleaf Enterprises to:

- Set up a Surrey-wide supported employment agency for people with disabilities and mental health needs.
- Help more people to get a job, have work experience and voluntary work.

New Deal for Disabled People

New Deal gives people the chance to move off benefits and into work. Surrey Supported Employment Project is a Job Broker for New Deal. It gets money from the Government to pay staff to help people find a job and then support them in the job.

27 people with learning disabilities are in this scheme.





Employment Projects



'Surrey Oaklands Priority Enterprises'

Runs gardening and plants, printing, assembly and retail schemes

'Invest to Save'

Surrey County Council led project to set up gardening and plants business across Surrey with money from Government

'Voluntary Sector'

Schemes are also run by voluntary organisations often gardening-examples

- Bells Piece in Farnham
- Grange in Bookham

Other Projects

Allsorts Café,
Office Services
Tea Bars
Textile Design

'Schools'

28 people at special schools are being supported by the transition employment worker to get work experience

Over 500 people involved in work schemes

What people say about having a job

"If I lost my job, I would be miserable, depressed....just miserable!"

"I have always been told I have a learning disability - but that does not stop me from working And being more independent"

"I still go to the day centre two days a week and work in Debenhams on the other days"

"I don't have to go to the day centre anymore - I do miss some of my friends but I have made many new friends at work"



"Before I had a job, I used to lash out, you know, threaten people....Now I shout a bit, but that's nothing "

"I want a life just like my brother and sister - have some money and go out more. I can now start to enjoy these things since I got my job at Woolworth"

"I have a really busy time - I go out with the day centre for sport, work in the coffee bar and some evenings at the supermarket"



What do we need to do to make our services better?

This is what service providers, people with learning disabilities, parents, carers and staff have told us:

Staff in Day Centres



Staff need to have the skills to help people into work.



Minimum Wage

It is difficult to pay the minimum wage of £4.70. Our work schemes need to earn more money and the Government needs to help so everyone can be paid.



Councils and NHS

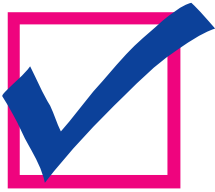
Only 8% of jobs supported by EMPLOYABILITY are with Councils and the NHS. We must tell them about the skills of people with learning disabilities and get Surrey County Council to use our work schemes.

Colleges

We must work with Colleges to make sure the courses they run offer people practical experience in the work people can get jobs in.



We must also work with Colleges to make sure that they do not carry on placing people in work without proper support and training (OFSTED Report)



What do we need to do to make our services better?

Welfare Benefits

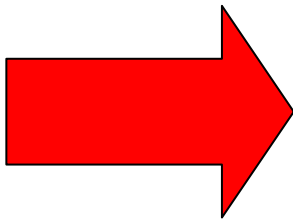
We need to provide clear, up to date and accessible information on benefits so people are not confused about working and what happens to benefits.



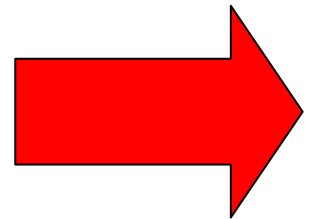
Support at Work

More people could get jobs if EMPLOYABILITY could support people where they work for more than 6 weeks.

We need to look at the work that Day Service and EMPLOYABILITY staff do so we can provide more support and get 'buddies/volunteers' to help as well.



Moving Forward



1. A seminar was put on in February by Surrey Supported Employment and supported by the Surrey Chamber of Commerce. It helped employers look at the good things about employing people with learning disabilities and other disabilities.
2. An expert is helping us to understand the minimum wage.
3. EMPLOYABILITY is working with some colleges to make sure people get support in their new jobs.

We will start work on the other points this year