

Opportunities for people with special educational needs and disabilities

A person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support, we shorten this to SEND.

Set out here are some initiatives offered across our partner organisations to support individuals with special educational needs and disabilities to gain work experience, voluntary work or paid employment.

Derbyshire Local Offer

Visit the 'one-stop shop' website to find lots of useful information on the support available for those with a disability or additional need – this includes a directory of employers who offer work experience placements, apprenticeships and voluntary work.

Other guidance and advice offered includes maintaining independence, things to do in the community and managing money.

Find out more here: localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council Local Area Co-ordination Service

Local Area Co-ordinators work with individuals with a disability, mental ill health, older people, families and carers to access services in the community – this can aid wellbeing, social interaction and independence.

Your Local Area Co-ordinator will work closely with you to offer a tailored package of support within the community by asking what would make your life better, rather than slotting you into a pre-existing service.

Find more information here:

https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/formBuilder/documents/adultCareLeafletOrderForm/local_area_coordination.pdf

Email: lac@derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council Community Connector Service

If you are aged over 16, live in Derbyshire and have autism and/or a learning disability, Derbyshire County Council's Community Connector Service can help you.

The friendly and experienced Community Connectors team are available to help you access opportunities in your local community, for example, getting involved in community based activities and groups, using local services, meeting new people, gaining paid or voluntary work, taking part in education courses and learning new skills (such as using public transport independently).

You will be assigned a member of the team who can work with you for up to 12 weeks. Reviews will be completed during and following the 12-week programme to monitor progress and see where more support is needed.

Find more information here:

https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/formBuilder/documents/adultCareLeafletOrderForm/community_connectors_service_info_july2017.pdf

Email: contact.centre@derbyshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01629 533190.

Derbyshire County Council Disability Employment Service

If you are over 16, unemployed and have a disability, Derbyshire County Council's Disability Employment Service can help you.

The service will help you to develop your goals and aspirations – whether you are looking for training, voluntary work, work experience or paid employment.

The Disability Employment Service can support with CV writing, applications and also at interview. Support will be there as long as you need it, with an in-work support service available to assist you when on a placement or at work.

Find more information here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/working-for-us/equal-opportunities/disability-employment-service/disability-employment-service.aspx>

Email: disabilityemploymentservice@derbyshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01629 532440

PAVES (Bolsover, Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire)

PAVES works with adults in the Bolsover, Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire region who have a learning disability find paid employment, training or voluntary placements.

The service is not time-limited, and will support with anything employment-related including assisting with JobCentre Plus appointments, Department of Work and Pensions forms and letters, and benefit related queries.

Find more information here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/social-health/adult-care-and-wellbeing/getting-out-and-about/day-services/learning-disabilities/paves/paves-leaflet.pdf>

Tel: 01629 537058.

Project Search

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton have partnered with local special schools to launch Project Search; a rotational work experience programme designed to support individuals to develop employability skills across different departments in a hospital.

Students will complete three rotations in departments such as catering, administration and porter services. The initiative will run for an academic year and will begin with an intensive four-week induction.

Derby Project Search is currently only open to students from Royal School for the Deaf Derby, St Martin's School Derby and The Fountains Federation Burton.

Find more information here: uhdb.nhs.uk/project-search-derby

Building Better Opportunities: Towards Work

Towards Work offers bespoke, personalised and tailored solutions to support an individual's journey towards personal progression and employment. The service does this by recognising barriers to achieving goals and working closely with individuals to empower them to overcome obstacles.

Specialist support is available for those with mental health issues and/or disabilities who may need additional provision.

Find out more here: <https://www.towardswork.org.uk/>

Email: BBOenquiries@groundworknottingham.org.uk

Tel: 0115 9788212.

Access to Work

If you are disabled or have a physical or mental health condition that makes it hard for you to do your job, your workplace has a responsibility to make adjustments to support you.

If the support you need cannot be covered by your employer, you can apply for Access to Work. You will be offered support based on your needs – this could include a grant to help cover some of the costs.

A grant could help pay for things like special equipment, adaptations at work, travel expenses to get to and from work, or support worker services.

To be eligible for Access to Work support, you need to have a paid job or due to start/return to a job. You may not be able to access funding if receiving certain benefits. You will not be required to pay the grant back, if eligible.

Find more information here: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>