



The Right Place project

Brokering work placements for young people with SEND

Background

Royal Mencap Society, with funding from Department of Education, is delivering a project to provide support and work placement opportunities to colleges and education providers for students with SEND. We use our employer engagement contacts to broker work placements. We then pass these placements on to colleges and education providers who meet minimum quality standards, who will match available SEND students into placements and support them in the workplace.

Is there a cost?

This service is provided at no cost to colleges and education providers.

What age group can access placements?

Placements are available for SEND students aged between 16 and 25.

How long are placements?

Placements will be arranged of varying duration:

- Short term placements of between 2 and 6 weeks. These will be initial tasters to give students experience in a workplace, and to offer an insight into the kind of work the student wants to do.
- Medium term placements of 6 to 12 weeks. These will offer a more intensive work experience and a greater chance to learn relevant work skills.
- Long term placements of 6 months+. These are for students on Supported Internships or similar study programmes.

Students are not expected to take up all three types of work placement. Education providers will discuss with students the most suitable type of placement to meet their work goals and learning needs.

How can education providers get involved?

We expect demand for work placements to outstrip supply on this project. We are asking colleges and education providers to pass an initial due diligence and complete an online e-learning module. We are also asking them to commit to person-centred placement planning, job coaching for the student on their placement and support for the employer to make the placement a success.

What support will be available to education providers?

Mencap staff will be working regionally in six areas to provide England-wide coverage. They will work with SEND and work placement coordinators in education providers in each region to identify and approach local/regional employers. The five regions are:

- North East
- North West
- Central and Midlands
- South and South East
- South West
- East of England

When does the project start?

The project will be delivered between April 2017 and March 2018, and we are currently developing due diligence systems. We are holding formal launch events for colleges and education providers in July 2017.

Further information

For more information on the project in general, please contact:
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