



Project Search Demonstration Sites

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14th December 2009

Project Search

Joint initiative between:

DWP

the Office for Disability Issues

DCSF

BIS

DH

Aim

Programme helps people with moderate and severe learning disabilities to secure and keep full-time paid permanent jobs.

Origin

- Established in the USA where it has been running for over 14 years.
- It runs in several large American organisations, including Cincinnati Children's hospital, several smaller hospitals and the Fifth Third Bank.
- Currently 135 Project Search programmes running in a number of US States.

What is it?

- Partnership between
 - an SEN school or FE college
 - a job coach/supported employment provider
 - a host employer.
- A college tutor and job coach run an (academic) year-long programme of work training for 12 interns via a series of work placements in a host employer organisation.
- Many of the participants secure and retain full employment with the host organisation; others leave the scheme ready for work and generally secure employment elsewhere.

Demonstration Sites (England only)

- The Office of Disability Issues invited proposals from local partnerships who were interested in running Project Search and taking part in a 12 month Government evaluation of the model.
- 14 sites were selected by the cross-government selection panel to take part in testing how the model could work in England.
- These sites will implement Project Search from September 2010 and are receiving advice and guidance from the VEN Central Delivery Team.

- Bath and North East Somerset Council;
- Bolton Council;
- City of Manchester;
- Department for Work and Pensions – Pensions, Disability and Carers Service, Newcastle;
- Derriford Hospital, Plymouth;
- James Pagett Hospital, Great Yarmouth;
- Kent Adult Social Services;
- Leicester City Council;
- Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital;
- NORSE Commercial Services, Norwich;
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn;
- Royal United Hospital, Bath;
- Sandwell Borough Council;
- The Southwark Partnership

Licenses

- Licenses to provide the Project Search programme in the UK are owned by the model's creators in the US
- The UK Government does not plan to issue licences to enable any further sites to run the model while the evaluation is taking place.

Options for job coach

- Job coaches are currently funded by Remploy via Workstep in three of the sites (NNUH, NORSE and Leicester).
- The Valuing Employment Now delivery team, is working with the other sites to identify potential funding streams for job coaches and tutors.
- Options may include Access to Work and/or Workstep (Work Choice from October 2010).
- Sites will be encouraged to approach their local Work Choice provider to join their partnership once the providers are announced.

Contact / Outcomes from Conference

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