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About the Work and Health Programme

The Work and Health Programme is a voluntary employment support programme designed to help people with a health condition or who are long-term unemployed manage their health conditions, develop their skills and gain sustainable employment.

Covering Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Leicester & Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Coventry, Warwickshire, Birmingham, Black Country, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent and Shropshire, the Work and Health Programme is different from other employment programmes because it recognises that everyone is different, it is not a "one-size" fits all approach.

Since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak Shaw Trust has worked closely with its participants and partners to ensure individuals receive the support they require during these challenging times, introducing a remote service of both health and pre-employment training. Our links to employers and skills providers



Support

From day one of starting the programme, participants will have access to a wide range of health, wellbeing and employability support, accessible through either digital means or over the phone depending on individual preferences.

Our Service includes:

- Dedicated Support Manager who will work with the participant on a 1-2-1 basis either by phone or video.
- Online resources and support through our Shaw Trust Customer Portal.
- Bespoke health and wellbeing services through our national and local specialist supply chain partners as well as in house specialists.
- Unique to Shaw Trust is our network of specialist volunteers, professionals from various sectors and backgrounds that can support our participants through 1-2-1 and group sessions. These include: life coaching, employment related activity, mental health support, IT training and business start-up.
- Development opportunities through our skills and training partners such as Ixion.
- Direct links to employers and local vacancies.
- Dedicated in-work support to help participants navigate employment.



About Shaw Trust

Shaw Trust is a national charity that supports people to be the best they can be. We do this by providing employment, education and care services, advocating for those we support and strengthening communities. We help people with a variety of different needs, whether it be a disabled person, someone who is unemployed, or a young person in care.

Referral Process

There are a number of routes for Participants to be referred to the programme:

- Via their local Jobcentre
- Through a referral organisation such as borough housing department or adult social care teams
- You can now also self-refer

If you are interested in becoming a referral organisation or you would like to be referred yourself please call **0800 389 0082** or email Self-referral@shaw-trust.org.uk

A member of our team will talk you through the process and confirm your eligibility.

Karen's Story

Karen joined the Work and Health Programme in September 2019 with housing being her biggest barrier. When Karen joined she was sofa surfing between her mothers and her grandmothers with her six year old daughter. Having previously struggled with poor mental health this situation increased Karen's anxiety understandably coupled with this she has also been living with the threat of homelessness owing to overcrowding and family disputes.

Whilst Karen was keen to source employment, her Support Manager discussed that her housing situation was a priority and our focus initially was to seek suitable housing. Together they registered Karen with the local district Housing Trust to ensure Karen was able to bid for available housing.

With the housing issue now resolved Karen was keen to focus on seeking employment, her Support Manager reviewed her aspirations and completed a Better off in Work calculation. Taking in to account her new outgoings this provided a realistic wage expectation and with real figures in front of us we were able to target the right job opportunities, ensuring Karen would be in a better financial situation. This would also mean that Karen would still get to spend quality time with her daughter.



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