

Team Work



News and information for people with learning & work in mind

Improving the Odds

Places are still available at the 'Improving the Odds' conference on 10th May at Exeter Racecourse for anyone working in employment and vocational services.

Based on feedback received from the 'Supporting People into Work' event in June 2006, and working in partnership with National Institute for Mental Health England, SWEMPnet have convened this conference to enable participants to feel more supported and informed in their work with people whose mental health affects their ability to find or sustain employment

Keynote speaker, Sally Bramley, Consultant Occupational Therapist in Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health, Sheffield Care Trust will address the issue of 'Asking the work question'. Delegates will also hear personal experiences from service users.

Workshops will offer opportunities to explore practical opportunities and challenges, look at benefits, helping people move on and the use of Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP).

Started in 1999, SWEMPnet is a registered charity covering the south west. It is a network of people interested in or involved with mental health vocational rehabilitation. The main aim of SWEMPnet is to encourage good practice in promoting the employment of people with mental health issues through the sharing of information.

For more information and to book a place contact Lynn Aggett or Christine Oliver on 01392 208833

Useful numbers

Connexions	203603
Citizens Advice Bureau	201210
Council Tax & Housing Benefits	265440
Exeter College	205222
Exeter Volunteer Centre	202055
Exeter Mental Health	
Service Users Group	201218
First Step Project	202055
Jobcentre Plus	474700
Meadow House	208900
MIND Exeter & East Devon	204499
Nextstep	0845 8 50 50 70
New Leaf	823720
PLUSS	0800 91 777 92
Rethink	01395 224166
St Loye's Foundation	255428
Skills for Life & Learning at Broadclyst	
	466643
Springboard	204496
Victory Centre	383788
WorkWAYS	208833

All prefixed by 01392 unless shown

Oops...

... sorry, this edition is bit late but within it we take the opportunity to complete our series featuring all of our Affiliated Organisations, without whom WorkWAYS would not be the service it is. You can read about all the organisations we've featured online at www.workways.org.uk.

We also feature our sister organisations who work with us in this important area of enabling people to recover from mental ill health through meaningful, structured and productive occupation.

**Read Team Work online at
www.workways.org.uk**

From A to Z

Completing our series about WorkWAYS' Affiliated Organisations.

University of Plymouth Careers Service

The University of Plymouth Careers Service is committed to the provision of quality services to enable students and graduates to make informed choices about their future and to reach their full potential.

The Careers Service aims to embed careers education in University programmes in order to encourage students to engage in career planning early. It provides information, advice and guidance to individual students and graduates to help them identify, implement and develop appropriate career plans. Promoting itself to students, graduates, academic departments, employers and other guidance providers, it provides an interface between students and graduates and employers, for vacancies, work experience and up to date information and advice.

For more information visit
www.plymouth.ac.uk/careers

WTCS

WTCS Limited is a private research and training company that specialises in helping people who are disadvantaged in the labour market to gain employment.

They operate primarily within the statutory and voluntary sector contracting to provide a range of services. These include employment advice; rehabilitation and work preparation; research and development of employment projects; training courses for groups of people with specific employment needs including disabled people and offenders.

Their Personal Adviser Service aims to help people with health problems and disabilities to get back to work. It is a free and voluntary service, agreed and delivered on an individual basis.

For more information visit www.wtcsLtd.co.uk or www.rightjob4you.co.uk

Westward Training & Personnel

From their offices in central Exeter, Westward Training & Personnel offer a wide range of training courses, help for people in job search skills such as CV writing, completing application forms, preparing for interviews and are well recognised for their expertise.

WTP are a provider of a Jobcentre Plus funded Programme Centre (help with CV, job hunting etc) and offer free computer courses for beginners; sage accounting, business admin (OCR) and also other occupational and NVQ training.

For more information tel 01392 490167

Workers Educational Association

The WEA is the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult learning. Ever since it was founded in 1903 the WEA has maintained its commitment to provide access to education and learning for adults from all backgrounds, and in particular those who have previously missed out on education. Through these local and regional centres, today's WEA now runs over 10,000 courses each year, providing learning for more than 110,000 adults of all ages and drawn from all walks of life. Courses are created and delivered in response to local need, often in partnership with local community groups and organisations.

WorkWAYS is affiliated to the Exeter centre of the WEA – tel: 01392 490970 or visit
www.wea.org.uk

Helping People to Move On

New Leaf

WorkWAYS' sister organisation New Leaf has gone through many changes in recent months. Manager, Don Crispin brings things up to date...

'New Leaf is located in a beautiful, open site in Exminster on the edge of Exeter and offers a wide range of vocational services for people experiencing mental ill health. Its main building, a former hospital, has undergone significant renovation in recent months and the site is starting to come together, with all the building work taking place. The new offices have been finished which allowed space for Clothing Works to move into their accommodation on the site at the end of March 2007. Great progress is also being made towards the completion of the print workshop which will allow them to move in at the end of May 2007. It's so good to see the building coming back to life after so many years!

Hillcrest Growers

Another season starts on the nursery, seed sowing and potting is in full flow, and the glasshouses are filling up very quickly. A new addition to the site is the creation of an orchard. 30 trees have been planted, old English varieties of apples, plums, pears and cherries. This will add a new opportunity to learn new skills in the management of fruit production. The idea is to use the produce, which of course will be organic, in the New Leaf Café.

New Leaf Café

Things are busy in the New Leaf Café, which is based at Westbank Healthy Living Centre just down the road, Mondays see the lunch club when Ellen and the team are producing healthy option meals for up to 35 people. The rest of the week is committed to preparing light lunches, cakes and soup, for all at New Leaf and the customers of the Friday café.

Wood Works

The basic skills and intermediate courses are going really well, several service users have already completed them and obtained their certificates along with their bird boxes and cd racks. John is also working in partnership with the Meaningful Occupation Project to provide a basic numeracy course, leading to a recognised national qualification. Also a range of bird boxes are being made for a variety of customers, and great picnic tables to sell on the nursery.

Hillcrest Branch

Tremendous strides have been made by Hillcrest Branch, our emerging social firm, obtaining more contracts with the NHS along with all its private work. April will see the Branch starting the grounds maintenance of the Langdon Hospital site in Dawlish. The team are also doing a lot of work towards Hillcrest Branch setting up as a business in its own right outside of the NHS. The team are working with Social Firms UK and receiving a lot of support from Devon Partnership Trust to help this happen in the very near future.

If you would like any additional information about anything you have read please do not hesitate to contact myself, or any of the team on 01392 823720.'

Clothing Works

As Don mentioned, Clothing Works have just moved in to offices on the New Leaf site. A second emerging social firm, Clothing Works is the official supplier of professional clothing and leisure wear for the British Association of Occupational Therapists and the College of Occupational Therapists. For more information contact Steve Wincott on 01392 829063 www.clothing-works.co.uk

Print

Staffed by services users and paid employees, Print is part of the Communications Department within Devon Partnership NHS Trust and handles the production of many of the Trust's publications and other material. They too will move to the New Leaf site in a few weeks time. For more information contact Darren Fairchild or Mike Walford on 01392 208858.

100 Charter signatories

In February, an Exeter company became the 100th signatory to the MINDFUL EMPLOYER Charter for Employers who are Positive about Mental Health.

Exeter Enterprises Ltd is a wholly owned company of the University of Exeter and offers a range of unique consultancy services.

“As an employer, the initiative enables us to tap into expertise, advice and practical support,” said Bob Tarbuck, CEO Exeter Enterprises. “With issues of mental health affecting so many people now, anything employers can do to assist is for the better. It is rewarding to be able to make a real and lasting difference.”

Signatories to the Charter are equally split across the private, public and voluntary sectors and includes small, medium and large employers. The fact that Exeter Enterprises is a small business also reflects the broad appeal of MINDFUL EMPLOYER.

While just over half the signatories are based in the South West - where MINDFUL EMPLOYER began - there are now a significant number in all other parts of the UK. MINDFUL EMPLOYER is now recognised nationally as a unique and innovative initiative and has grown dramatically from its small beginnings in Exeter. So for a company called Exeter Enterprises to be the 100th signatory did seem rather apt!

In recent weeks, MINDFUL EMPLOYER has been presented and discussed at conferences and events in Bristol, Coventry, Hull, London, Maidstone, Nottingham, York and elsewhere. There are now established Local Employer Networks throughout the South West and we are involved in national initiatives such as *Action on Stigma* and work with the Dept for Work & Pensions, Disability Rights Commission, National Institute for Mental Health England, the government’s Office for Disability Issues, Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health and others.

Advertise in *TeamWork*

Do you provide information, advice, training or support to people with mental health issues, employers or learning and work organisations?

You can advertise your service to our readership of nearly 1000 learning and work organisations, employers, social care and health professionals and is also available on the Internet.

An advert costs just £25 inc VAT per edition.

Contact us the address shown below.

Something to say?

If you have any contributions or comments, please get in touch:

TeamWork, *WorkWAYS*, King Street Business Centre, 7-9 King Street, Exeter EX1 1BQ

Tel/fax: 01392 208833 E-mail: teamwork@workways.org.uk

TeamWork is a photocopiable resource – please make copies for others.

Devon Partnership 
NHS Trust