

Contact Us

WorkTaste
Rossendale Trust
Hollin Lane
Sutton
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK110HR

Phone: 01260 252500 extension 216

Email: louise.lewis@rossendaletrust.org



WorkTaste

Placement Overview



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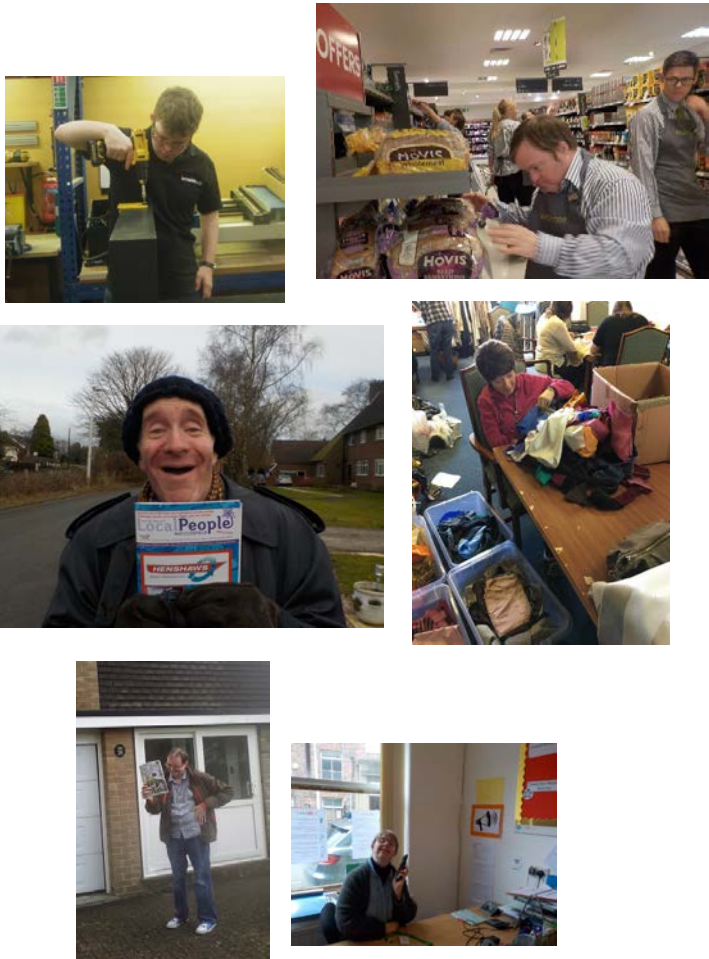
Web: www.rossendaletrust.org/worktaste



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Our participants



Mencap Research

Just 5.8% of people with a learning disability known to local authorities are in employment, yet just over half of the public - 52% - say they would prefer to work for a company that employs people with a learning disability, according to a survey.

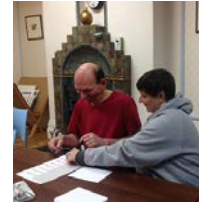
To better understand the public's attitudes towards employment of people with a learning disability, Mencap has produced a video that explores the public's gut reactions when asked about working with someone who has a learning disability. Despite many revealing outdated stereotypical opinions on why it may be hard for a person with a learning disability to successfully secure a job, an overwhelming majority were supportive of employment for people with a learning disability,

The research and video coincide with the launch of Mencap and Inclusive Employer's Learning Disability Work Experience Week. Working with companies including The Guardian, Channel 4, McDonalds, the NHS, BBC, and Wetherspoon's to provide work placements across the country for people with a learning disability. Jan Tregelles, chief executive of Mencap, said:

"This research and public reaction really highlights how a lack of understanding around what people with a learning disability are capable of is a crucial factor in the woefully low employment rates experienced by people with a learning disability". "It is however hugely encouraging that when made to think about the issue the public came out in overwhelming support towards employing people with a learning disability".

About WorkTaste

Project History



Following the transition in 2011 from a residential to a supported living model, many of our tenants expressed an interest in spending some time in a real working environment, so we set up the WorkTaste initiative to facilitate this.

Structure



Participants have a choice of longer and shorter duration placements in a wide range of settings. Participants have 1:1 support from one of our coaches who work alongside them, while encouraging them towards independence in the workplace by improving and learning new skills.

Outcome



The initiative is to give people a taste of the working environment and to integrate them into their local community. WorkTaste is an opportunity for individuals to sample a range of work settings, to develop new skills and to work as part of a team, fully supported by a coach along the way.

Hospitality and Office

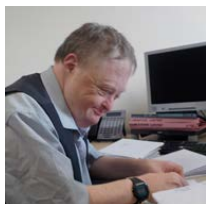
Hospitality



We have several hospitality placements available in our local community. Some are run mainly by volunteers and some by paid staff. Our participants can help clean tables, serve customers, make drinks and help out in the kitchen. Some of our placements include:

- Tytherington Club Café, Macclesfield
- The Old Saw Mill Community café, Congleton
- Cheshire Streetwise café, Macclesfield

Office



Our office placements include shredding, delivering and franking mail, photocopying and greeting visitors. We have regular placements in our WorkTaste office assisting our staff with the day to day running of the office. Some of our external office placements include:

- Arighi Bianchi marketing department
- Congleton Museum slide scanning
- Harts Accountants

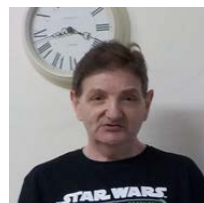
Bridgend Centre

Shop Assistant



The Bridgend Centre in Bollington offers a variety of tasks, for example making drinks, setting up for events, and cleaning. The participant will develop a wide range of skills, this placement would suit someone who is calm, friendly and polite.

What our participants say



"This place is brilliant"

What our coaches say



"This placement would suit a variety of participants, as there are so many roles available. The staff are very friendly and will work around the participants needs and allow them space when necessary. "

B & M Bargains

Shop Assistant



B&M is a discount retail store in Macclesfield with friendly and approachable staff. The job involves replenishing stock using a trolley and lift and handling heavy crates. There are also opportunities to price stock and print labels to go on the shelves using electronic guns.

What our participants say



"The staff are very nice and I like doing different things."

What our coaches say



"This placement would suit someone who does not mind standing and walking for long periods of time, is happy interacting with people and can learn to carry out some sequential button presses. The participant will also need good upper body strength and be comfortable doing repetitive tasks."

Outdoor and Retail

Outdoor



Our outdoor placements involve delivering magazines in the local community, gardening, litter picking, and working at an animal hospital. Gardening placements tend to be seasonal, however the rest of our outdoor placements take place all year round. Here are some of the organisations we work with:

- Local People Magazine Delivery
- Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital
- Macclesfield Town Football Club
- St Peters Community Gardens

Retail



We work with a number of retailers to offer our participants the opportunity to learn about the work involved in running a shop. Tasks include pricing stock, sorting out items and helping customers. Here are some of the organisations we have worked with:

- B & M Bargains
- Bridgend Centre charity shop
- Co – op Stores
- Macclesfield Town Football Club

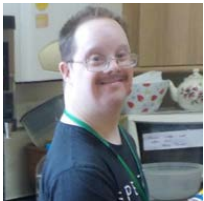
Cheshire Streetwise

Catering Assistant



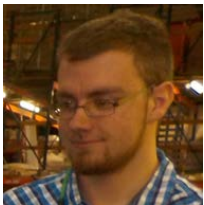
Cheshire Streetwise (Elim Pentecostal) is a kitchen serving hot and cold food including soup, rice pudding and sandwiches. The food has been donated by local businesses or made by volunteers to help the community of Macclesfield.

What our participants say



"I liked taking drinks to people and I liked the food the most!"

What our coaches say



"This placement would suit someone who does not mind standing and walking for long periods of time, can handle the bustle of a kitchen environment. The participant also needs good manual dexterity and washing up skills. They will also need to have a good memory to remember small orders."

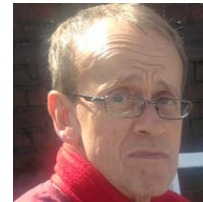
St Peters Gardens

Gardener



St Peters Gardens is a community project based at St Peters Church on Windmill Street in Macclesfield. The gardens are being created in the church grounds. This is a seasonal placement starting in spring and finishing in autumn.

What our participants say



"I enjoy gardening and think it is good to do something for the community. I enjoy working outdoors because I care a lot about the environment."

What our coaches say



"St. Peter's is great for anybody who likes the outdoors, getting their hands dirty and anything to do with gardening. There is always plenty to do such as planting and repotting of seeds, flowers, plants, vegetables and herbs. The volunteers are very welcoming and friendly."

Local People Magazine

Delivery person



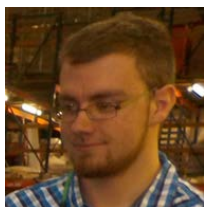
Participants deliver Local People magazine around Gawsworth and Henbury. There are approximately 300 magazines per round. This is an excellent placement for those who enjoy getting out in the fresh air and have a good level of fitness, participants are paid for their work.

What our participants say



"I like being out in the fresh air, but the best thing about this placement is the money!"

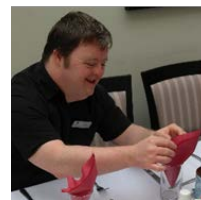
What our coaches say



"This placement would suit someone who enjoys a lot of walking and likes being out in the community. The participant needs to be comfortable being out in all weather conditions and have the determination to complete the round within a set time frame."

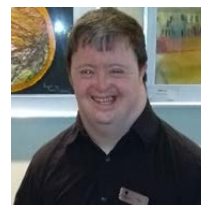
Tytherington Club

Café Assistant



This placement involves clearing tables and assisting staff serving hot and cold drinks in the café/bar. There are also opportunities to help out with functions, for example setting tables and polishing cutlery.

What our participants say



"I love it here, I feel part of the team!"

What our coaches say



"This placement would suit someone who enjoys being on their feet and has an outgoing personality. The staff are very supportive and if there is anything new our participants would like to do they will try to make it happen!"

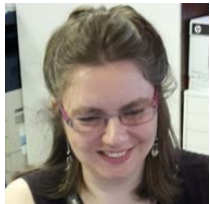
Arighi Bianchi

Marketing Assistant



Arighi Bianchi offer short four week placements. So far there have been placements in the marketing, maintenance and café departments. The marketing department enables participants to help with promotions working as part of a small team.

What our participants say



"My confidence increased at this placement, I was nervous at first. By the end of the placement I felt like part of the team and did not want to leave."

What our coaches say



"The marketing team were very supportive and took the time to get to know the participant and to ask her about the tasks she would like to work on. They made her feel part of the team. This placement would suit someone who likes a quiet environment and has good IT skills."

Congleton Museum

Museum Assistant



Congleton Museum aims to pull together as much of Congleton's history as possible exhibiting it to the community. Our participants have been helping the museum to digitize and log some slides relating to Egyptology. This involves scanning and saving slides on a PC.

What our participants say



"I enjoy working on the computer and making sure the slides are positioned correctly! I also enjoy walking to the bus stop and having a coffee at the museum."

What our coaches say



"This job role involves travelling from Macclesfield Bus station to the Museum by bus, the journey takes 30 minutes each way. This offers a great opportunity for travel training, crossing roads, speaking to the bus driver and navigating from the bus station to the Museum."