



Supporting and working with community groups and clubs to promote a deeper understanding of local health and care needs and experiences

Spotlight on WorkAid

WorkAid is one of 16 projects that make up the Aldingbourne Trust. The project is funded by West Sussex County Council to provide Supported Employment support to individuals with learning disabilities or autism spectrum conditions living across the county.



Adam who works at the Trust

There are two programmes: Work Preparation Programme, and Supported Employment Programme, with an additional Job Retention service for individuals who may be at risk of losing employment. Both programmes are designed to be person-centred and aim for the individual to gain independence.

The Work Preparation Programme is designed for those who have little or no employability skills or little work experience. This is a bespoke 1:1 programme which lasts up to 12 months, and includes additional support with social and communication skills, travel training, health and safety, Curriculum Vitae (CV) writing, Work Experience and any other areas of support which need attention. The aim is for individuals who complete this programme to progress onto the Supported Employment Programme.

The Supported Employment Programme is designed for those with slightly higher ability for work or more work experience and employability skills. While still being a tailored 1:1 programme, it is shorter (roughly 12 weeks job searching maximum plus additional monitoring once in work) which focuses on job searching, CV writing, job applications, interview skills and support with interviews, job coaching and additional support as necessary.

Which programme the individual is most suited for will be discussed with the Employment Consultant at their first meetings. We continue to distance monitor individuals once they

are in work, checking that they have settled in and ultimately withdrawing support when the individual is independent. We also support employers to feel confident about employing staff with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum conditions; providing bespoke training and offering support to staff who are managing employees.

For more details about the eligibility criteria to the WorkAid service please contact the main WorkAid office -details below.

This insight is used to influence services development and can feed into:

- West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board
- HASC - Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
- WSCC Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Safeguarding Adult Board
- Sussex Health and Care Partnership workstreams (the NHS Integrated Care System for Sussex).

Healthwatch West Sussex also share reports with the Care Quality Commission (who are responsible for the registration and inspection of services which deliver regulated activities) and to Healthwatch England to form part of the national picture used to influence national developments, such as the NHS70 10 year forward plan.

To learn more about the work of WorkAid please contact:

The WorkAid main office:

Telephone: 01243 546035

Webpage: www.workaid@aldingbourne.org



Not only do we collect the experiences of local people, but we can also provide free information and guidance just call: **0300 012 0122**.

Email helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk,

Website www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk.

healthwatch
West Sussex

You can also follow our social media channels:

Facebook [@healthwatchwestsussex](https://www.facebook.com/healthwatchwestsussex)

Twitter [@healthwatchws](https://twitter.com/healthwatchws)

If you are setting up or would like to share news of a similar project we would be interested to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl Berry, Community Partnership Co-ordinator, email: cheryl.berry@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk