# Supported Work Placements

## For adults with an ASD

## Business Information Brochure

Daisy Chain
A haven for families affected by autism

## What is a supported work placement?

The supported work placement project is aimed specifically at adults and young people aged 16+ with a diagnosis of autism or undergoing diagnosis to help them to gain experience of employment by matching them with an employer for a work placement over a specific time period.

We aim to match the young people/adults to work environments that suit their skills, qualifications, interests and career goals.

Daisy Chain works alongside the company and ensures that both the employer and the student are fully supported throughout. We provide training, a point of contact and are able to provide personalised visual resources as necessary to help both the student and the company feel confident in their placement, ensuring that the partnership is beneficial to all parties involved.

## Why is it needed?

- Only 16% of adults with an ASD are in full time work - this figure has remained the same for the last decade.
- At Daisy Chain, our belief is that everyone deserves the opportunity to take part in meaningful, paid employment if they wish to do so.
- Many employers would be keen to employ people with autism, but don't know where to start, and are worried about "getting it wrong."
- With the right support and a few adjustments, most students can be a real asset to a business.
- With the correct work placement, a young person/adult with autism can grow in confidence and reach their full potential.

*"Since starting work experience in the last few months my son is a different boy. Everyone has commented on the changes in him. He told me he is never bored whilst he is working and has made quite a few friends. Before, he used to mope around the house, lacking enthusiasm and sometimes being moody. I think the experience of working has made my son feel like a worthwhile, valued member of society and has reminded him of the many things he can learn to do. So thank you again for providing such a positive, supportive and inspirational environment."*

***- Quote from a mother of one of our supported work placements***

These work placements will allow young people/adults on the autism spectrum to build their confidence and communication skills, while developing their employability skills and enhancing their CV.

Being on a work placement will also allow the students to develop contacts which can be used as future references when entering paid employment.

## What do we need from you?

Daisy Chain is looking for local businesses to get involved by signing up and agreeing to take on a work placement student. We are looking for businesses from all different sectors in order to meet the needs of our students.

Our placements are generally one day a week but the days, times and overall length of the work placement can be decided through discussions with our team. We take into account what will work best for the student and you as a business.

An initial sign up meeting will take place, where we can go over any questions and queries you might have. Our team can get a real understanding of what your business does and what our student would be undertaking by working with you.

Once signed up to the programme, we will then keep your details on our database until we find a suitable match with one of our students.

We ask that you commit to the following requirements:

- To identify a key staff member who will be the main point of contact for the young person/adult. This person will provide support and mentoring to the student.

- For key staff to provide support, guidance and act as a positive role model for the young person/adult on placement.

- For key staff to liaise with Daisy Chain staff regarding the continued support of the young person/adult on placement.

- To complete a workplace agreement document prior to the young person/adult beginning their work experience with you, which also requires you to provide copies of documents such as safeguarding policies and risk assessments.

*"Working with Daisy Chain to provide employment opportunities for their clients is something I'm really passionate about. The young people who join us very quickly become part of the team and help across the business. It isn't always easy but Daisy Chain provide support and guidance, with the process being really positive for all involved. I would really encourage you to take part in this important programme."*

***- Ian Brown, Onsite Building Trust***

## How will Daisy Chain support you?

We understand that taking part in a project like this can be daunting and you might think that it is not right for your business. However, Daisy Chain is here to support you and work with you to make sure that everyone involved is happy and feels supported.

- We will provide autism training to key staff in your workplace so they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support the student appropriately
- Daisy Chain will accompany the young person/adult to your workplace for a "meet and greet" visit
- We provide key staff with details about the young person's/adult's specific needs (with their consent)
- We will drop in regularly for catch ups with both parties to ensure any queries are addressed
- We will provide you with any resources, visuals and mentoring sessions as appropriate for key staff to help with the placement

*"Working in the Coffee Shop I have fun, and I get to learn different things about the Coffee Shop. In my 6 months here, I feel more prepared for work and more confident as time goes on."*

***- Quote from a current placement***

## What benefits do you get out of it?

There are a lot of reasons why signing up can benefit your company. Firstly, you would be adding a valuable member of staff to your team. Many people on the autistic spectrum can often:

- be greatly skilled and qualified
- have the ability to retain factual knowledge
- be incredibly accurate, focussed and pay close attention to detail
- be reliable, hard working, motivated and conscientious
- have excellent IT skills

Furthermore, by signing up to the programme, your business would be part of a project that is enriching the lives of people in the local community. Working together with Daisy Chain can fit alongside CSR policies, and can help demonstrate a positive attitude towards diversity and a commitment to equality. Our project aims to help close the unemployment gap for people with autism and your company could be part of helping towards that.

As a business signed up to our supported work placement programme, you will be helping Daisy Chain in our battle to break down the barriers faced by young people and adults when diagnosed with autism.

# How do we get involved?

If you are interested in getting involved or would just like some more information, please contact our Employability Team at Daisy Chain on **01642 531248** or e-mail **info@daisychainproject.co.uk**

Daisy Chain
A haven for families affected by autism

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