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Jobs First Evaluation

Helping people with learning disabilities to get paid jobs

What we found out

This easy read report was sponsored by:

Easy read
About us

We are called the Social Care Workforce Research Unit.

We find out about good ways for staff to support people.

We then tell other people what we found out. Then they can learn from it too.

About this report

This report talks about what we did to find out about Jobs First.

Jobs First was a new way to help people with learning disabilities to get a paid job.

Jobs First was for people with learning disabilities who get money from the Council for their support.

This report says how well Jobs First went.
Who did Jobs First

Jobs First was done by some Councils.

Councils make decisions about things in local places like support for people.

Councils give money to pay for support for people.

But usually they don’t for help to find people a job.

The next page tells you more about Jobs First.
About Jobs First

Some Councils tried to help people with learning disabilities to get a paid job.

They called this Jobs First.

To do Jobs First the Councils told people with learning disabilities

- it can be good to have a paid job
- they can use some of the money for support from the Council to pay for help to get a paid job
- some people paid a special worker to help them find a job. This person was called a job coach

This report says how well Jobs First went.
What we did

We talked to lots of people about how to help people with learning disabilities to get a paid job

We asked them if Jobs First had helped.

Who we talked to

We talked to people with learning disabilities

We asked them if they got good help to try and find a paid job

We also asked their families.

We talked to staff working in Councils

We talked to staff working in other places

We asked them about what they did to help people with learning disabilities to get a paid job.

The rest of this report says what we found out.
The main things we found out

Jobs First helped some people with learning disabilities get a paid job.

The next few pages say other things we found out.

1. Jobs First works differently in different areas

This is because of things like

- people might not have good help in their area to get a paid job

- Councils have less money now to support people. So there is not a lot of money to help people to get paid jobs

- in some places there are not enough paid jobs.
2. **Most people wanted a paid job**

Most people said it is good for people with learning disabilities to have a paid job.

But some people might not want to get a paid job.

If they get a paid job they might get less money from the Government.

But they would get paid money for doing the job.

3. **People wanted lots of different paid jobs**

For example

- cooking
- office work
- working with animals.
4. People can work on their own
Not in a work place or for someone else

This is called being **self employed**.

This could be good for people who

- do not want to work for someone else
- might find it hard in a work place.

We spoke to 2 places. They supported people to work on their own.

They did this in different ways. But both of them had helped people to be **self-employed**.
5. It can be hard to get enough money to pay for help to get a paid job

People told us that

- some people did not get enough money from the Council to pay for all their support

- people might also need to get other money from the Government to help pay for all their support

- helping people get a paid job costs money. But it might cost less money than paying for them to do other things.

- In Jobs First the part of the Government to do with support for people paid for help to get a job.

Some people said the part of the Government to do with work should pay for help to get a job.
What should happen next

1. People should have good information about
   - what help they can have to try and get a paid job
   - what money they can get from the Government

2. More people with learning disabilities should be told why it is good to do a paid job.

3. Work places should be told
   - why it is good to give paid jobs to people with learning disabilities.
   - how to make it easier for people with learning disabilities to get jobs.

4. The Government should give people the money they need quickly if they lose their job.
More things that should happen

5. Different parts of the Government should work together.

They should give people the money they need to pay for their help to get a paid job.

6. Councils should make sure people can find good help in their area to get a paid job.

7. Councils should think about what support people might need after they get a paid job.

This can help people with learning disabilities to be happy in their job.

This can also help them to do their job well.
How to find out more

You can find out more about the work we did by

- phoning 020 7848 1782

- emailing scwru@kcl.ac.uk

- going on our website. It is here

www.kcl.ac.uk/scwru

Our website does not have easy words or pictures.

Our website has a copy of this report you can print.

Our website has the main report and summary. These do not have easy words or pictures.

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