



DFN
Project
SEARCH

DFN PROJECT SEARCH BRADFORD

A STEPPING STONE
BETWEEN EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT

A programme
in partnership:



Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Bradford College

WHAT IS DFN PROJECT SEARCH?

DFN Project SEARCH is an academic-year long supported internship designed for young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), transitioning from education to paid employment.

The goal for each intern is to gain paid employment of 16+ hours a week. To reach that goal, the programme provides real-life work experience. This is combined with on-site daily classroom sessions in employability and independent living skills, to help young people with learning disabilities and autism make successful transitions to employment.

All young people need to be able to travel independently and it is also vital that all interns can behave professionally and are eager to look for a paid job.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This programme is for young people who:

- » Have an Education, Health & Care Plan
- » Are 16-24 years old
- » Can travel independently, or agree to work towards this
- » Looking for paid work
- » Can behave and dress in a professional manner as advocates for DFN Project SEARCH

Scan here to find out more.



PAID EMPLOYMENT

The ultimate goal of DFN Project SEARCH is to support each intern to find full time paid employment.

- » Current statistics show that only 6% of young people with neurodiversity are in paid employment.
- » Over 70% of young people who have previously completed the DFN Project SEARCH programme went on to find paid work.

OUR PARTNERSHIP: BRADFORD TEACHING HOSPITALS

Interns will take part in 3 different work rotations in a hospital environment.

Our partnership with Bradford Teaching Hospitals allows interns to develop transferable skills in a wide range of roles including portering, admin, cleaning, catering, housekeeping, care roles, pharmacy stores and more.

JOB COACH SUPPORT

HFT provide on the job support to help interns learn their job role. This may be at the host employer, or an employer outside of the programme.

- » They will provide support to interns with the transition of learning a new role.
- » Interns and the employer are supported for as long as they are in work.
- » HFT also work in partnership with a benefits advice service.

PROGRAMME YEAR

SEPTEMBER >

Interns start the project in September with 2-3 weeks in the classroom to familiarise themselves with their surroundings before starting their first work placement.

OCTOBER >

Now that the interns have started their first work placement, parents/carers will be invited to the first employment planning meeting.

JANUARY >

When the interns return from Christmas break they will start their second work placement.

JUNE >

DFN Project SEARCH finishes in June, but this doesn't mean the support from us stops. If paid employment has not been gained at this point, we will continue to support through 1-1 sessions. If paid employment has been achieved, we are here to support the intern in their new workplace to help them get established in their new role.

MAY/JUNE >

Following the May half-term break, parents/carers will be invited to another employment planning meeting. In this meeting we will be looking towards the end of the programme and discussing progressing into paid employment.

FEBRUARY >

Following the February half-term break, we will review progress with the intern and look at the progress made towards their targets.

MAY >

Interns will begin their third and final placement of the programme. We aim to have this placement as close to their desired career path as possible.

JOE'S STORY

"I HAVE TO THANK PROJECT SEARCH FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEM, THEN I WOULDN'T BE ME."

Check out what Joe has to say about how this internship boosted his confidence and life skills.



Scan the QR code to listen to his story



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