



A multi agency approach to helping disabled people back to work

Vikki Walters – Jobcentre Plus
Trish Stokoe – South West Development Centre



Part of the Department
for Work and Pensions

Getting Britain Working Measures

- Pre work programme measures e.g Work clubs
- Flexibilities including JCP
- Work Programme:
 - Mandatory for JSA/ESA/WRAG
 - Voluntary for IS/IB (ESF funded)

Forwards- what we do

Forwards brings together the resources and expertise of a range of organisations from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to help people with mental health issues, learning disabilities and higher functioning autism to find and stay in work

Forwards- *who we are*

Third Sector Services



**independence
trust**



Why?

- Lots of organisations offering a range of services
- **‘Forwards’** co-ordinates these services
- Customers can access services through a single point
- Encourages organisations to work with one another for the benefit of the customer
- Offers help across the wider spectrum of conditions

Who is it for ...?

- People across the spectrum of Mental Health
- People with Learning Disabilities
- People with higher functioning Autisms
- Those caring for people with disabilities

What it provides

- Disability Specific information sessions including disclosure and condition management
- Debt and benefits advice
- Employability Skills (including work with employers)
- Basic Skills and Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)
- Ongoing in work support through supported peer groups

Success to date ?

- Engagement from people in MH and LD
Day/Drop in Services
- Improving Workchoice participation
- Job Interviews/Job Starts
- Increased interest in Adult Educations and
Voluntary Work placements
- Interest from Carers Gloucestershire
- Employer Sessions
- Volunteer with Aspergers Syndrome

Outcomes so far?

- 6 people have started voluntary work
- 7 referred and started Adult Education Courses
- 1 person started part time work
- 2 started full time work
- 51 Participants (before expansion)

What Next?

- Introduce Forwards across the West of England Area for people with ASD and Mental Health
- Expand to Cheltenham (12/9)
- Introduce 4 LD specific Forwards in Gloucester, Cinderford, Stroud and Cheltenham (Oct 2011)
- Glos CC supported placement pilot

Do You have any Questions?

Now for the practical bit!

Group Discussions

DISCUSS

- How could this approach be adapted or adopted to meet the needs of your customers/ service users
- What type of work clubs would benefit specific client groups e.g care leavers, ex offenders, mental health, ASC , Learning disabilities et al

AND,

- What have you got in place that could be built upon for your client groups

THANK YOU