

Transforming Lives

DFN Project SEARCH believes that everyone deserves the right to aspire to the very best future, yet nationally **less than 6% of people with a learning disability** who are known to local authorities go on to secure full-time paid employment.

Our vision is to ensure that everyone with a learning disability or autism can attain high-quality, integrated employment in their local area.

Offering a high aiming one-year transition to work programme in their final year of school or college, our approach is so much more than work experience, it is education and training at its very best!

Students get to use and apply their skills and learning every day, ensuring that they are ready to move seamlessly into the workplace as skilled and effective employees.

Best Practice Education and Training

DFN Project SEARCH is a business-led, one-year transition to employment programme for young people with a learning disability and autism.

70% of our graduating interns secure paid employment with an impressive average of **60% securing full-time roles**, creating life changing opportunities and transforming outcomes for young people with additional learning needs.

We offer an evidence based model and professional resources that deliver results through developing great relationships with high aiming and committed partners.

DFN Project SEARCH students throughout the country are already seeing the benefits of the innovative learning experience and the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the host business.



Social Value

Evidence shows that being in employment improves health and wellbeing and is central to individual identity, social roles, and social status.

People in work tend to enjoy happier and healthier lives than those who are not in work.

Transitioning people from education straight into competitive employment also saves money for health and social care by creating opportunities for people with a learning disability to become **net contributors** rather than recipients of adult social care and health services.

- Once a **DFN Project SEARCH** partnership is established, it is sustainable year after year and keeps delivering increasing numbers of full-time paid jobs and careers.
- Over time, community expectations are raised along with the belief that people with a learning disability can work in many different skilled jobs.
- The pathway from childhood to adulthood and work becomes smoother for young people and their families.
- A variety of local businesses benefit from the talent pool created, they can access a new, diverse, workforce with skills that match labour needs.
- This opportunity transforms the life chances and improves social mobility of young people with additional needs.
- Communities become more inclusive and people with a learning disability more visible.
- Social justice is achieved for people who have been frequently marginalized from the world of work.

Our unique programme is changing lives for the better, bringing students:

- ✓ Competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- ✓ Increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- ✓ 800 hours of structured support from teacher, job coaches, host business managers and mentors

A Team Of Teams

DFN Project SEARCH is a partnership between a host business, education, and professional adult supported employment. The goal is to provide on-site internship experiences that allow necessary skill development opportunities for young adults with a learning disability to compete for employment.

Host Business

Provides an on-site base and a variety of internships that teach core skills related to that business or organisation.

Local Authority

Commissions appropriate partners and ensures access to the programme across a community. Individual life planning guidance, care management and individual budgets for job coaching and other support.

Department for Work and Pensions

Provides 'Access to Work' funding for job coaching and other follow on support. Provides advice to the young person and their family about better off in work calculations.

Supported Employment Agency

Provides professional job coaching and job development for interns at the host business.

School or College

Provides a teacher and student interns from the local area.

“ [DFN] Project SEARCH has been a big life change giving me a step up to employment. I was quiet, shy, close minded and in a dark place and I was desperate, calling for help as my hopes were coming to an end of despair. One step into [DFN] Project SEARCH revealed a new positive, open minded, proactive, confident, time keeping Tegan Mulby on the go! I am ready for the possibilities and achievements that an exceptional employee takes me... If I wasn't introduced to [DFN] Project SEARCH then I would of gone in a different direction. ”

Tegan Mulby, a graduate, is now an Administration Support at Positive Footprints and a member of the Youth Advisory Group

To find out more or to partner with DFN Project SEARCH, please get in touch.

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 dfnprojectsearch.org

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