

## Employment and Community Skills

### The Community Connecting Team (CC)

Community Connecting is a service for young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, including autism. We aim to support our customers to find out more about their local community and how they can independently access some of the following:



- voluntary work
- travel training
- joining clubs
- meeting friends or making new friends
- socialising
- further training and vocational courses

Community Connecting forms part of a wider team called Employment and Community Skills (ECS) which includes:

- Wiltshire Employment Support Team (WEST)
- Wiltshire Supported Internships (WSI)
- Funded Travel Training
- Get Connected (GC)
- Early Intervention

We can help you:

- look at community and volunteer opportunities that interest you and how you will get there
- identify your skills and strengths, then help you to develop any new skills needed
- fill in voluntary work application forms and support any interviews
- identify your training needs and signpost you to where you can get help with that
- review progress with you and the opportunity

The team apply a person-centred, yet realistic approach, working with you to use your community facilities to do things you enjoy, with the planned aspiration for you to do this independently.

When Community Connecting receives your referral you will be allocated to a community co-ordinator, who will meet with you to register you to our service. Your community co-ordinator will ask you what type of volunteering or leisure interest you wish to pursue.

When found, we then plan with you how you are going to get to your chosen activity/voluntary position and will support you in this for the appropriate length of time. We will review our work with you regularly to ensure you are able to sustain your chosen activity/voluntary position.

There will be responsibilities expected of both you and the community co-ordinator, these will be explained to you and reviewed regularly.

We are always striving to support people on the pathway to adulthood, employment and beyond and will discuss a referral to Wiltshire Employment Support Team (WEST) where appropriate.

## Who is eligible

You can be referred to Community Connecting if you;

- live in Wiltshire (local authority boundary area)
- are motivated and committed to independence
- are not supported by another employment agency \*This is in relation to customers seeking voluntary work

It then depends on who is referring you;

### SEND Service referrals;

- young people 14 to 25 years of age with a My Plan or Statement of Special Education Need (SEN) or previously held a statement.
- young people with ASC not meeting the above criteria; (Not Funded Travel Training)
  - 16 to 25 years of age

In most cases we are funded to provide services via social care or SEND services provided by Wiltshire Council.

If you are 16 to 25 years old, depending on the circumstances, we can, on occasion take a self-referral if you are on the autistic spectrum, including Asperger's and do not access any services from Wiltshire Council.

This is on a case by case discretionary basis, and not always possible.

It is important to note that once the customer is successful in achieving the outcome they were referred for their file will be closed. That does not mean it is the end of our involvement, it just means for additional support for a different outcome will require a new referral. This is to ensure everyone gets fair access to our support.

We are not a forever service, but we can support people multiple times over a long timeframe if they are motivated to increase their skills.

## Who can refer?

- Community co-ordinator at ECS (inter team referrals)
- Special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) Worker
- EHCP co-ordinator at colleges in Wiltshire
- Wiltshire college tutor
- Wiltshire specialist school or college tutor
- Social worker or customer co-ordinator
- Adult care teams subject to QWAM, for example LDAS or Moving On team
- Adult autism diagnostic service
- Looked after children (LAC), for young people with an EHCP

## Contact details

Wiltshire Employment Support Team  
Employment & Community Skills

Office 01225 718004

Email [west.cc@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:west.cc@wiltshire.gov.uk)

### Adult Social Care Referrals

- 18 years of age and above
- Has an assessed eligible need for this service (Care Act 2014)
- Identified under the following Reported Health Conditions
  - Learning Disability
  - Autistic Spectrum - Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, High functioning Autism
  - Physical Impairment Acquired physical injury
  - Neurological - Stroke, Parkinson's, Motor Neurone's, Acquired brain injury
  - Sensory Impairment Visually impaired – Hearing impaired

