

Darlington Association on Disability

Information Guide

Employment

This section gives details of a range of statutory and voluntary services that offer disabled people support for training for work, finding and keeping work.

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Jobcentreplus

Jobcentre Plus offices, like the one in Darlington, are replacing Job Centres and Benefits Offices. They offer an integrated work and benefit service for people of working age. Services for disabled people are provided by Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) and Access to Work Advisers (AtWs).

Initial contact is through DEAs, who provide a range of support, advice and information services to disabled people who are having difficulty in finding employment or are concerned about losing their job. AtWs provide more specialised support to disabled people and their employers to overcome work related obstacles.

The **New Deal for Disabled People** is a voluntary programme designed to support disabled people overcome barriers to work. It is delivered through a network of Job Brokers selected by Jobcentre Plus. Different Job Brokers can offer different services, so it's worth getting the details of as many as you can in your area and then registering with the one that best suits your needs. The **Morrison Enterprise Trust** offers job broker support in Darlington, while **Broker North East** covers a wider area.

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The **Shaw Trust** is a national voluntary organisation committed to promoting the abilities of disabled people within the workplace. It can provide supported placements, employment rehabilitation and assistance with job searches. It also provides information, support and financial subsidies to employers. The regional office is in Middlesbrough.

Other Employment Services

Advance Employment offers support and advice to assist disabled people in Darlington who have been unemployed for two years or more. The service helps to find paid employment by placing people in a work placement appropriate to their individual skills, abilities and potential.

Association of Disabled Professionals works to improve the training, employment and rehabilitation opportunities of disabled people in professional and managerial positions.

Dimensions is a user led initiative in Darlington, which promotes and maintains empowerment, self progression, independence and choice. Dimensions members work at their own pace setting goals and devising Personal Development Plans to achieve them. These goals may include access to education, training, leisure and employment.

National League of the Blind and Disabled is a trade union of blind and disabled people who are working, training, studying or dependent on state benefits because they are unable to find employment.

Pathway is a scheme run by **MENCAP**, which provides people with learning difficulties with supported work experience in a variety of employment situations. Mencap has produced a number of useful guides. For example, Making it Work for People with a Learning Disability, is a guide for people with a learning difficulty who may be considering getting a job.

The **Northern Pinetree Trust** at Birtley offers guidance and support to disabled people considering entering into self employment. From concept right through to ongoing support once in business.

The **Princes Trust** assists young people aged 18-29 (up to 30 if they have an impairment) to set up in business by providing support and encouragement.

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RNIB Employment Line provides employment-related services to visually impaired people. It can advise on job hunting, suitable equipment, vocational assessment, training courses, etc.

The **Support 4 Learning** website has an extensive range of contacts under its disabled persons jobsearch resources section.

Volunteering

Voluntary work can be an effective way of assisting your employment prospects. It can help you assess your strengths and weaknesses, increase your knowledge, skills and abilities, and provide you with experience and references. You can do up to 16 hours of voluntary work per week without it affecting benefits, but check with the DEA to make sure any other benefits you receive are not effected.

Darlington Council for Voluntary Service has a Volunteer Bureau, which can put people in touch with voluntary organisations throughout the area.

Darlington Association on Disability has a range of volunteering opportunities, and positively encourages and supports disabled people to volunteer.

Community Service Volunteers finds voluntary work away from home for people, with meals, expenses, accommodation and pocket money provided.

Other Sources of Information

Other sections of the Darlington Association on Disability Information Guide may contain further information relevant to employment.

The **Legislation** section for details of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and how this affects your employment rights.

The **Media** section for information on specialist publications.

There are a number of local and national organisations providing broad information and advice resources. Please refer to this guide's Introduction for contact details.

Contact **Darlington Association on Disability's** Information Service for assistance with searching for information about any

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subject in this guide or for support in dealing with your information requests.

Contacts

Advance Employment

Morton Park Business Training Centre

Morton Park

Yarm Road

Darlington

DL1 4PJ

Telephone : 01325 387700

Fax : 01325 387650

Minicom : 01325 387695

E-mail :

Website : www.communigate.co.uk/ne/advanceemployment

Association of Disabled Professionals

BCM ADP

London

WC1N 3XX

Telephone : 01204 431638

Fax : 01204 431638

Minicom :

E-mail : adp.admin@ntlworld.com

Website : www.adp.org.uk

Broker North East

Telephone : 0800 389 7036

Fax :

Minicom : 0800 389 7036

E-mail : brokernortheast@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

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Website :

Community Service Volunteers

CSV Head Office

237 Pentonville Road

London

N1 9NJ

Telephone : 020 7278 6601

Fax :

Minicom :

E-mail : information@csv.org.uk

Website : www.csv.org.uk

Darlington Association on Disability

20-22 Horsemarket

Darlington

DL1 5PT

Telephone 01325 489 999

Fax : 01325 488 188

Minicom : 01325 245 061

E-mail : mail@darlingtondisability.org

Website : www.darlingtondisability.org

Darlington Council for Voluntary Service

Church Row

Darlington

DL1 5QD

Telephone : 01325 266 888

Fax : 01325 266 899

Minicom :

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E-mail :

Website :

Dimensions Disability Initiative

West Lodge

West Crescent

Darlington

DL3 7PS

Telephone : 01325 254840

Fax : 01325 254841

Minicom : 01325 243007

E-mail: dimes@nildram.co.uk

Website :

Jobcentre Plus

Bondgate House

90 Bondgate

Darlington

DL3 7JY

Telephone : 01325 385000

Fax :

Minicom : 01325 385047

E-mail :

Website : www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

MENCAP

123 Golden Lane

London

EC1Y 0RT

Telephone : 020 7454 0454

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Fax : 020 7696 5540

E-mail: information@mencap.org.uk

Website : www.mencap.org.uk

For more information about MENCAP's education and employment services

6 Nightingale Court

Nightingale Close

Rotherham

S60 2AB

Telephone : 01709 830956

Fax :

Minicom :

E-mail : francis.lord@mencap.org.uk or jill.bates@mencap.org.uk

Website : www.mencap.org.uk

Morrison Enterprise Trust

Morton Park Business Centre

Morton Park

Yarm Road

Darlington

DL1 4PJ

Telephone : 0132 538 7700

Fax: 01325 387650

Minicom : 01325 387695

E-mail: dwoodcock@darlington.ac.uk

Website :

National League for Blind and Disabled

Central Office

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Swinton House
324 Grays Inn Road
London
WC1X 8DD
Telephone : 0207 837 6103
Fax : 0207 278 0436
Minicom : 0207 837 6103.
E-mail : nlbd@iftc-tu.org
Website :

New Deal for Disabled people

Helpline : 0800 137 177

Minicom : 0800 435 550.

Website : www.newdeal.gov.uk

Website : www.jobbrokersearch.co.uk to identify local and regional job brokers

Northern Pinetree Trust

Pinetree Centre

Durham Road

Birtley

DH3 2TD

Telephone : 0191 492 8200

Fax :

Minicom :

E-mail : Manager@pinetree-centre.co.uk

Website :

Prince's Trust - North East Region

Tynegate Business Centre

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5th Floor
Aidan House
Sunderland Road
Gateshead
NE8 3HU
Telephone : 0191 4788488 or 0800 842 842
Fax : 0191 4788487
Minicom :
E-mail : offnero@princes-trust.org.uk
Website : www.princes-trust.org.uk

RNIB Employment Line

58-72 John Bright Street
Birmingham
B1 1BN
Telephone : 0870 013 9556
Fax :
Minicom :
E-mail : employmentline@rnib.org.uk
Website : www.rnib.org.uk

Shaw Trust

Shaw Trust Head Office
Fox Talbot House
Greenways Business Park
Malmesbury Road
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 1BN
Telephone : 01225 716300

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Fax : 01225 716301

Minicom : 08457 697288

E-mail : stir@shaw-trust.org.uk

Website: www.shaw-trust.org.uk

Shaw Trust Local Office

Cornforth House

68-70 High Street

Cornforth

County Durham

DL17 9HF

Telephone : 0800 085 1001

Support 4 Learning

Website : www.support4learning.org.uk

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