



Better 2 Work

An employer's guide to 2gether NHS
Foundation Trust's vocational service

Who we are and what we do

The Better 2 Work Service provided by 2gether NHS Foundation Trust supports people with ongoing mental health problems who want to find routes into employment, voluntary work, education or training.

Our Employment Specialists help clients prepare for work, apply for jobs and successfully gain or retain employment. We provide ongoing support to manage their mental health issues as well as practical help for employers.

The facts about work and wellbeing

Everyone needs meaningful activity to maintain positive mental wellbeing. Most people with mental health problems would like to do some paid work or want support to keep their job. Evidence shows that being in work contributes to a better and swifter recovery.

Employment also provides:

- Financial benefits
- A sense of independence, dignity and purpose
- Opportunities to meet new people
- The chance to develop skills and give something back to the community
- Improved health and wellbeing

How you can make a difference

Your organisation can help by recruiting in an inclusive way and employing people with ongoing mental health problems.

Many people with a mental health issue have valuable work skills and experience and can manage their condition so it has no impact on their ability to do their job.

Ignorance, stigma and discrimination are major obstacles for people with mental health issues. With the right support, most of these people can be productive and fulfilled employees.

Benefits for your business

The benefits to your business of working with Better 2 Work include:

- Access to skilled, motivated, productive and conscientious workers
- Compliance with legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act, plus free work-based training and support in managing mental health
- Savings for your business. By supporting existing staff to stay in work we can help you reduce the cost of recruiting and training new staff, improve productivity and reduce sickness rates
- Your workforce may feel more supported and able to discuss issues and ideas with you
- Promotion of a positive image of your company as a socially responsible employer committed to tackling discrimination

How we can help

Our Employment Specialists support clients and employers for as long as required. We give individuals practical support including help with application forms, job searches, benefits advice and access to voluntary work or training.

We help people gain or retain work ranging from a few hours per week to full-time posts. We also work with employers to ensure you make the most of individuals' skills and experience.

Who can apply for help?

- Anyone of working age with a mental health issue who receives help from a 2gether NHS Foundation Trust secondary mental health team – for example the Recovery Team or Assertive Outreach Team
- 2gether Secondary Mental Health Service teams on behalf of clients
- Mental health and employment organisations

I'm interested: What do I do next?

If you feel you could help someone obtain and stay in employment, or provide training or education opportunities, please:

- Pick up a Vocational Service application form at any mental health resource centre
- Contact your local Employment Specialist
 - Tel: 01242 251441 to find out who this is

Individuals who require vocational support but are not yet ready for paid employment can receive help from several other services.

For more information, Tel: Better 2 Work on 01242 251441.

If you would like further information, additional copies or would like to receive this leaflet in another language, large print or audio format please contact the Trust Communications Team at Trust Headquarters, Rikenel, Montpellier, Gloucester GL1 1LY. You can email us at 2gether.comms@glos.nhs.uk or call us on 01452 891604.