

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Item number	10
Relevant Officer:	Delyth Curtis, Assistant Chief Executive/Director of Adult Services, Blackpool Council

PROJECT SEARCH

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To share with the health and Wellbeing Board details of the Council's Project Search Programme which will commence in September 2014
- 1.2 To enlist support from partners in terms of offering job interview opportunities in the summer of 2015.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the project and its potential impact for young people with learning disabilities in the town.
- 2.2 To support the young people at the end of the programme with interview opportunities where available

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To provide the board with an update on the

3.2 Alternative Options:

- 3.3 There are no other suitable alternative options.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged

5.0 Background Information

5.1 What is Project Search?

The Project Search model helps disabled people secure and keep paid permanent jobs. It is particularly suited to people with moderate and severe learning disabilities or autism, and others who can benefit from partnership working to help them into work.

5.2 How does it work?

A college tutor or school teacher and job coach run a year-long programme of work training for 12 people via a series of work placements in a host employer organisation. 14 project search sites contributed to an evaluation led by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) and received advice and guidance from the cross-Government Valuing Employment Now team. Of these sites four of them (Leicester City Council, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, NORSE Commercial Services, and Royal United Hospital, Bath) had been delivering Project Search for over a year prior to the start of the evaluation, and all have been successful in supporting people into work of 16 hours or more a week.

5.3 Project Search: initial findings

The four previously established sites have supported over 25 people with learning disabilities and autism into work. Without Project Search, these sites say it is unlikely that any of these people would have had the opportunity to work and contribute to the economy

Anne O'Bryan from Project Search will be attending to update members about the Councils Project Search initiative being delivered in partnership with the college, special schools and Mencap.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Equalities considerations:

7.1 The project is likely to reduce barriers by providing access to appropriately tailored learning and work opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Background papers:

9.1 None