

Employers

These are just some of the valued employers that provide placements and paid employment for trainees:

- ▶ Tescos
- ▶ Co-Op
- ▶ Customs & Excise
- ▶ Magistrates Courts
- ▶ McDonalds
- ▶ KFC
- ▶ HMV
- ▶ Local Hospitals
- ▶ Dunlady House Nursing Home
- ▶ Stormont Hotel
- ▶ Olympia Leisure Centre
- ▶ Russells Cellars
- ▶ Castlereagh Council
- ▶ Youth For Christ
- ▶ Local Community Centres
- ▶ Budget DIY
- ▶ Local Hairdressers
- ▶ MS Society
- ▶ More Store

Parent/Carer Involvement

We encourage parents/carers to actively be involved in the programme at every stage. The Employment Officer will provide a supportive environment for families to discuss their son or daughters progress.

For those trainees who are unable to travel independently, we ask parents/carers, when ever possible, to assist with transporting their son or daughter to work placements and training events.



Contacting Us

For Further Information about the employment service contact:

Employment Service Manager
The Orchardville Society
Lagan Village Tower
144 - 152 Ravenhill Road
BELFAST
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Parents & Carers

Guide To The Employment Service



Who We Are

The Orchardville Society is a voluntary organisation working within South and East Belfast, assisting people with learning disabilities to realise their full potential and ambitions. An integral part of our work involves preparing people for work through vocational training opportunities and work experience.



The Role Of An Employment Support Officer

Following an initial assessment the Employment Support Officer will work closely with trainees to source work placements, access training courses and help with travel training.

The Employment Support officer will assist with introducing trainees into new work placements, job coaching and making regular visits to trainees whilst on placements.

Trainee Development

The Employment Service aims to assist trainees who have different skills and abilities from school age to retirement to develop:

- ▶ Independence
- ▶ Self-confidence
- ▶ Self-esteem
- ▶ A sense of achievement
- ▶ Building of a CV
- ▶ Career Development

Other training offered by the society includes, Independent travel, communication and interview skills.



Work Placements

The employment service finds placements for trainees either from their database of employers or sourcing new ones, to match up with trainees skills, abilities and interests.

Orchardville also has supported training units, in the areas of catering, office administration and bottle sorting.

Paid Employment

The ultimate aim within the Orchardville Society is for trainees to reach their maximum potential, and for some this may involve gaining paid work. Paid work maybe accessed through a number of routes:

Open Employment: Jobs that are advertised in the media and applied for in the usual manner.

Employment Support: The government pays towards wages and the individual still receives support.

Supported Permitted Work: Individuals can work up to 15 hours and earn up to £72:00 per week and keep most of their benefits. Support will still be given from the Employment Support Officer.

Permitted Work Lower Limit: Earn up to £20:00 per week and keep benefits.