

PHOENIX ENTERPRISES





What we do, the difference we want to make:

Phoenix is a registered charity, which was set up in 2002 to support people recovering from mental health problems ranging from depression to autism, and people with learning and physical disabilities. We also support those that are struggling to find employment.

Our prime objective is to act as a stepping-stone towards employment by giving our Service Users the opportunity to rebuild their confidence whilst learning new skills in a productive and supportive environment. We achieve this by providing the following services:

- A day centre for our Service Users to have a place where they can feel included and make friends with people in similar situations
- Extensive 1:1 training programmes. Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Budgeting, Life Skills, CV Writing and Interview Techniques, Math's and English improvement, whilst giving them access to the latest technology (i.e. computers, ipads) in our IT Learning and Development suite that we have created.
- Liaising with counsellors, GP's, social workers/case workers and the Job Centre to ensure that support is targeted to the specific needs of each Service User and their families.
- Helping to educate employers of the stigma attached to mental health, learning and physical disabilities

As we are a non-profit organisation, all the money we make goes towards supporting our Service Users – providing uniforms, safety shoes, training such as computer skills, fork lift training, math's & literacy, counselling and life coaching. It provides support for our Service Users and their families and recreational activities such as board games, books, DVDs, pool table, computer equipment, team building and member/family days out. It also helps us to have a 24 hour emergency phone service so that each Service User and their family has a number to call and voice at the end of a telephone giving them support whenever they need it.

“Phoenix has allowed me to become more independent. It has helped me move out of living with my parents and rent a flat on my own. I now pay my bills and complete my housework and deal with any correspondence I receive”



Our aim is to achieve a placement of 6 months maximum; from the moment a Service User joins us to the time they find a work placement, although we recognise that some individuals may need a longer pathway.

Phoenix also recognises that not all Service Users will be able to go into mainstream employment. This is due to severity of learning disability or mental health. Our centre gives those Service Users a regular place to attend, to carry out a day job, feel included in society and that they are contributing.

This is all done in a supported environment.

Phoenix offers them a long-term placement, support, and rest bite for their families.



The difference we want to make is to show each individual who comes to us that they can achieve their goals, can find employment whether it be mainstream or in a supported work placement, and can be treated as an equal.

It is key that our Service Users receive the best possible chance of success and that mental health, learning and physical disabilities do not disadvantage them in their desire to learn, work, and achieve.

Service User Feedback:

"I have struggled to gain employment in the past because potential employers couldn't see past my physical disabilities. This knocked my confidence. With the help of Phoenix I regained my confidence and determination to get into the workplace. I am now successfully employed and I'm loving my job! Thank you to Phoenix. I couldn't have done this without your help and support"

"Phoenix has helped me with work experience and to build a CV. They even helped me job search. I am working again and no longer have to rely on benefits"

"I spent less than 6 months at Phoenix. Great people and they helped me with find a job. Volunteering for them boosted my CV and they gave me a reference, which helped me get the job I am in today. I've been working now for over a year. Thanks Phoenix!"

"I had low self esteem, felt that I couldn't work and was depressed. Phoenix went to every doctors appointment and health assessment with me. I'm on the road to recovery now and I'm actively looking for employment"

"Phoenix found me a work experience placement. I have been taken on by the catering company as a chef and have been employed for nearly a year. Love my job and love that I'm earning again"

"I've been coming to Phoenix for 12 months. I previously worked in other placements in Swindon via the Swindon Job Centre. I have struggled with these placements because they didn't understand me. Since I have been coming to Phoenix they have helped me. I have now been diagnosed officially with Aspergers. Phoenix is a very wonderful place, the staff are amazing and I have made lots of great friends and they're all very nice."

"I suffer with social anxiety. When I first came to Phoenix I cried before I even got through the door. I struggled to interact with people. I can now talk to others, catch the bus on my own, and I feel okay to be around people who I don't know"

"Phoenix is more than just a training place. It's a place where I have made friends. I feel safe"

"Phoenix has helped my build up skills and given me a chance to learn new things. I have put this all on my CV"

"Today Phoenix helped me find a job. I couldn't have done this on my own"

"After my mum died my life fell apart. I even thought about suicide. Phoenix helped me pick up the pieces"



Mental Health Facts:

- 1 in 4 people will suffer with a mental health problem in their lifetime
- Mental health does not discriminate. It can affect anyone, anytime regardless of age, gender, race, or financial status
- Having a support network can often save a life

Benefits of Phoenix:

- Creating Opportunities for those recovering from Mental Health Issues and those that have learning disabilities
- Role model the importance of inclusion irrespective of disability
- Providing a stepping stone into employment
- Providing training, support and rehabilitation

Our Results:

- In 3 years, 66% of people that have come through our programme have turned their lives around and entered into employment
- On average 24 people per year are helped
- Saving the DWP / Tax Payer approximately £85,000 per annum in employment benefits alone.
- £255,000 saved over the course of 3 years



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