

We would like to introduce you to forwards!

Forwards brings together the resources and expertise of a range of organisations from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to help people with mental health challenges, learning disabilities and higher functioning autism to find and stay in work.

Through a network of Work Clubs, we will give customers advice to help them face their individual challenges and support to find a job.

We will design a programme of advice sessions to meet each customer's needs.

This could include:

- confidence building;
- anxiety and condition management;
- disclosure;
- volunteering;
- CV preparation; and
- interview techniques.

Each venue will have computers which customers can use for job search and online applications. Plus, our people will be available to provide individual support.

We have an extensive partnership network, which we will signpost customers to specialist providers for extra support too, dependant on their needs.

These may include:

- government programmes;
- NHS initiatives;
- debt management;
- condition management;
- housing support;
- advocacy;
- basic skills; and
- other employability training.

We will make sure that people who move into work are fully supported by developing a peer support group which will be supported by NHS Vocational Services. Through this service, we can help to reduce the impact of any challenges and encourage sustainability.

Currently in the centre of Gloucester.

Others will start soon in:

- Cheltenham; and
- Stroud.

We hope to increase our footprint too, depending upon demand.

Over the next 12 months we aim to make Forwards self-sustaining by generating income through the development of social enterprises. By working together we can explore new and creative ways of helping people with health issues and disabilities to find appropriate and sustainable employment.

For more information about Forwards, or if you would like to get involved please call us on:

07435 788 659

