

# Finding Work (schemes)

*The Child Brain Injury Trust is a national charity supporting anyone affected by childhood acquired brain injury. The following information has been developed to help the reader understand more about brain injury and some of the associated issues. Every effort has been taken to ensure the information is accurate and up to date. If you require more immediate support or assistance please contact our **Advice, Information & Referral Service on 0303 3032248.***

## Finding Work (schemes)

Disabled employees and jobseekers are legally protected against discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Young people looking for work or in work are legally entitled to fair treatment in issues of recruitment, promotion and pay. The act also means workplaces must be accessible to disabled people. The 'two ticks' symbol means an employer has a positive attitude about employing disabled people.



The [Access to Work Grant](#) is available for people with disabilities and can pay for:

- adaptations to the equipment you use
- special equipment
- fares to work if you can't use public transport
- a support worker or job coach to help you in your workplace
- a support service if you have a mental health condition and you're absent from work or finding it difficult to work
- disability awareness training for your colleagues
- a communicator at a job interview
- the cost of moving your equipment if you change location or job

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/disabilities/work>

*NB This is different in Northern Ireland*

Work Based Learning Apprenticeships provide young people with an opportunity to learn how to do a job, gain skills and work towards a qualification. All employed apprentices will get paid at least the current 'Apprentice National Minimum Wage' of £3.30 as of October 2015.

A PLA (Pathway led Apprenticeship, formerly PLP – Pathway led Programme) is an upfront block of training which can be taught at college or on the premises of the training provider.

The training can take between 1 month and 12 months to complete. The advantage of a PLA is that you will gain the occupational knowledge and understanding needed for your chosen career - known as a

Technical Certificate. You could also achieve your Key Skills as part of the PLA which would then help you to secure employment to complete your Apprenticeship.

**Supported Employment** is a wonderful way for a person with a learning difficulty to move into paid employment with support. Acquired brain injury is becoming more accepted as a reason for support even if there is no actual diagnosis of 'learning disability' or 'physical disability'.

**Disability Employment Advisers** are employed by **Job Centre Plus** to help individuals gain new skills and find work even if you have no work experience. They can advise people about work programmes specifically for people with disabilities or refer young people to other available services.

**Work Choice** helps people with disabilities whose needs cannot be met through other work programmes. It will also ensure employers get the support they need to employ more disabled people.

**Access to Work** can help you if your health or disability affects the way you do your job. It gives you and your employer advice and support with extra costs which may arise because of your needs.

**Disability Employment Advisers** are also able to give information about employers in the area who have adopted the '**two ticks**' disability symbol. This shows an employer has a positive attitude towards disabled people.

The **National Careers Service** became fully operational in April 2012 and is accessible online through their website or via a telephone helpline. They provide information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential, helpful and impartial advice supported by qualified careers advisers.

A **Voluntary work** placement is a great way to develop skills and learn new ones and is a good opportunity to find out more about a career you're considering and see if it would suit you. It can also mean less stress as well because you won't be under the same pressures in terms of time and workload.

### **Top Tips**

• For more information about Apprenticeships, contact:

-National Apprenticeship Service <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>

-Job Centre Plus <http://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/>

-YMCA Training <http://www.ymcatraining.org.uk/>

• Contact the British Association of Supported Employment (BASE) on 01204 880733 or visit their website [www.base-uk.org](http://www.base-uk.org) for more information and to view their directory of members.

- Have a look at the National Careers Service website at [www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService](http://www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService) or call them on 0800 100 900.

For Families in Northern Ireland

NOW Group is a social enterprise that supports people with learning disabilities, difficulties and autism into jobs with a future. It was established in 2002 and is the parent organisation of two social enterprise businesses – Loaf Catering and Gauge NI, a research and evaluation business – the profits of both go back into the work of NOW.

The key objective of the organisation is to see more people with learning difficulties and barriers to employment get jobs with a future. NOW Group achieves this goal by offering a range of services to clients including a dedicated employment team, training, a transition service for young people moving from school or college into work and a volunteering programme. The organisation also provides a family service programme which offers support to new and expectant parents with learning disabilities and difficulties.

[www.nowgroup.org](http://www.nowgroup.org) or call them on 028 9043 6400

Do remember when you contact any of these organisations to always explain your support needs.

It makes success so much more likely!

**MAKE A DONATION TODAY**

The Child Brain Injury Trust relies on grants and donations to enable us to continue our work supporting families affected by childhood acquired brain injury.

Please help us to continue our work by making a donation today – [CLICK HERE](#) to make a one off donation or set up a monthly gift.

*Thank you – your donation does make a difference.*



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