

Conference

Monday 24 November 2008

Holiday Inn, Victoria Station Road, Sheffield S4 7YE



Jane Thompson

Employment, learning and skills for people
with mental health problems
New policy and practice or parallel universe?



Please retain pages 1 - 4

Background

'Our achievement of high and stable employment over the last decade has been founded on labour market flexibility, a sound economy, and a balance of rights and responsibilities. While these remain important, they are no longer enough. In a global age, the ability to equip our people with higher and new skills is increasingly important.'

'Workskills. Unlocking Talent' DWP and DIUS 2008

The government policy paper 'Workskills' lays out the strategy for the creation of an integrated employment and skills service to give people the best chance to get into and get on in work. Public monies to ensure high employment and a skilled workforce will go into the expansion of Apprenticeships and Train to Gain, the creation of a new Adult Advancement and Careers Service and Skills Accounts and the development of collaborative partnerships through Working Neighbourhood Funds, City Strategy and Multi-Area Agreements.

Despite efforts to reduce unemployment over the past few years, it has had little impact on improving employment rates for people with mental health problems, particularly those with severe and enduring mental health problems. It also appears that moving from learning and skills to employment or accessing work-based learning have not always been successful pathways for many people with mental health problems. The lack of join-up in services and practice has meant that people with mental health problems don't always get the all-round support that they need to get in to work, get on at work and maintain positive mental health.

In theory, an integrated approach to employment and skills should have many benefits for people with mental health problems. It is well known that those in work experience better mental health than those not in work, and it is also known that participation in learning and skills can improve mental health and well-being. Developing skills in work also supports people to remain in work and to get on at work. So can the integrated approach laid out in 'Workskills' be made to work for people with mental health problems? Or will it be a 'parallel universe' of services that fail to meet people's needs, leaving them behind in the drive to upskill the workforce.

This conference will look at existing good practice in supporting people with mental health problems into employment, learning and skills, but will also examine the opportunities proposed in 'Workskills' and explore how they might be used for the benefit of people with mental health problems.

Audience

This conference will be beneficial to those working in:

- Learning and Skills
- Work-based Learning
- Employment services
- Health and Social Care.



Programme

- 09:45** Arrival and registration (tea/coffee available)
- 10:15** Welcome and introduction to the National Social Inclusion Programme
Chair: David Morris, Director of National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP)
- 10:25** 2020 - Employment and Skills for the future
Nick Isles, Managing Director, Corporate Agenda
- 10:50** Employment, Learning and Skills opportunities for people with mental health problems – the current situation
Neil Lowther, Assistant Director, Employment, Learning and Skills, NSIP
Kathryn James, Development Officer, NIACE/Assistant Director, Employment, Learning and Skills, NSIP
- 11:15** Tea/coffee break
- 11:30** Workshops – Models of good practice (please indicate your choices on the application form)
1. The Individual Placement and Support model of supporting people with mental health problems into employment, learning and skills – Miles Rinaldi, Head of Recovery and Social Inclusion, South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
 2. The Supported Employment model – getting people with mental health difficulties into jobs – Hannalie Parsloe, National Operations Manager for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Rempoy
 3. Supporting the transition from further education into work for people with mental health problems – Jill Mumford, Support Tutor in Mental Health, Wigan and Leigh College
 4. Volunteering and training – using Train to Gain to support volunteering opportunities (cancelled)
 5. Social enterprise initiatives for people with mental health difficulties, tbc
 6. Direct Payments – supporting access to employment, learning and skills
Victoria Sturdy and Catina Barrett, Regional Project Officers for Mental Health, NIACE
- 12:45** Lunch and exhibition stalls
- 13:30** “Workskills - Unlocking Talent”. The new integrated employment and skills service
Department for Work and Pensions / Learning and Skills Council, tbc
- 14:00** Discussion groups
What are the key opportunities and challenges in taking forward the Workskills Agenda for people with mental health problems?
- 15:15** Plenary session – Questions from the floor to panel of keynote speakers
- 15:45** Summing up by the chair
- 16:00** Close of conference (tea/coffee available)

This programme is correct at the time of going to press. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the published programme in the event of one or more of the advertised speakers being unable to attend. Participants have no claim against NIACE in respect of such changes.

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Event information

- Arrival and registration is at 9:45am for a 10:15am start. The event will end at 4:00pm
- Event fee per person: £198 (includes lunch, tea/coffee)
- **NB: NIACE does not charge VAT on conference and course fees**
- If you wish us to invoice your employer we require a copy of the Purchase Order
- Please note that the absence of a Purchase Order / Order Number will delay the processing of your application form
- Only application forms with the payments section completed will be processed
- Places will be allocated in order of receipt of completed application forms
- Completed and signed application forms must be faxed or posted to NIACE by the closing date. Reservations by telephone cannot be accepted
- Application forms are individually acknowledged by e-mail. Joining instructions, including map and directions, will be posted out one week before the event
- Participants should be prepared to take their own notes as there will not be handouts for all sessions
- If you have not received an e-mail confirming your attendance and joining instructions 4 working days before the event please contact:

Gurjit Kaur

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Minicom: 0116 255 6049

E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Application conditions

Event: Monday 24 November 2008

Closing Date: Thursday 13 November 2008

- Bursary places are offered on this event. A supporting letter accompanying the Application Form is required
- Cancellations will only be accepted if received in writing before the closing date and will be subject to an administration fee of £50.
- The full fee is payable prior to the event
- Substitutions are to be advised **5 working days** prior to the event
- A **10 working days** notice period is required for provision of palantypists, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille.

NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, was founded in 1921. The National Institute seeks to secure an education system responsive to the diversity of adults' needs and aspirations as learners, and in particular to those who benefited least from initial education. It is our belief that a system fit for adults of all ages and in all their complexity will work better for all learners.

The National Institute is active in many areas - in research, development, publishing, seminars, conferences and training courses, and has an active individual membership.

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Participant's requirements

- I will require a hearing loop
- I will require a sign language interpreter (indicate type)
- _____
- I will need a palantypist and/or note taker
- I will be using a wheelchair
- I will be bringing an assistance dog
- I have a visual impairment
- I require event material in a specified format (please indicate format)
- _____
- I have the following childcare requirements (state gender, age, number of children)
- _____

Any additional requirements (please specify)

I have the following dietary requirements

NIACE requires a 10 working days notice period to make arrangements for palantypists, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille

NIACE membership (please indicate)

- Individual Member
- Corporate Member
- Honorary Life Member

Agreement

By signing the form the individual agrees to NIACE's Terms and Conditions in respect of applying for a place at a NIACE event.

Signature

PRINT First (given) and family names

Date

C1735/1108

Event Date: Monday 24 November 2008
Closing Date: **Thursday 13 November 2008**

Equality and Diversity monitoring

Please tick the appropriate boxes below

Asian

- Bangladeshi British Chinese
- Indian Pakistani Sri Lankan
- Other: _____

Black

- African British Caribbean
- Other: _____

Dual Heritage

- White and Black Caribbean White and Black African
- White and Asian Other: _____

White

- British European Other: _____

Any other ethnic group

Please specify: _____

Gender

- Female Male

Age

- Under 30 31-50 51+

Sectoral monitoring

Please tick the appropriate box below (* please specify)

- Adult Ed. College
- College, FE or HE (inc. Universities)
- Community Education Provider
- Government Department
- Information/ Guidance Provider
- Libraries and Museums
- Learning and Skills Councils
- Local Government (inc. Education Authority)
- Local Authority, Housing
- Local Authority, Youth Services
- Primary healthcare
- Prison/Probation Service
- Supported Employment
- Trade Union
- Voluntary Sector and Charities
- Work-based Learning (inc. SSCs)
- Other* _____

Send to: Gurjit Kaur

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