

How do I get onto your service?

All that you need to do is contact our Manchester Employment Team. Our friendly staff will then take you through our simple referral process. All that we ask is that you are a Manchester resident, consider yourself to be a disabled person and are committed to finding employment.

Am I disabled?

If you consider yourself to have an impairment or a health condition and you feel you face barriers to getting and keeping a job because of this, then you can use our service.

Will my benefits be affected by signing up with your service?

Your benefits are not at risk. We will support you to get the right advice on what you can and cannot do and how working will benefit you.

How long will it take for me to be seen?

We try to see people as soon as we receive your completed information. However, during busy times it may take up to 6 weeks. When we are ready to see you, we will contact you to arrange a meeting.

What can I expect when I am seen?

Your first meeting is with your Employment Officer. This informal meeting gives you the chance to find out a bit more about our service so you can decide whether it will benefit you. The meeting also gives you the opportunity to discuss what you would like to do and what support you would like in achieving your goals. At the end of this meeting both you and your new Employment Officer will agree on an action plan.

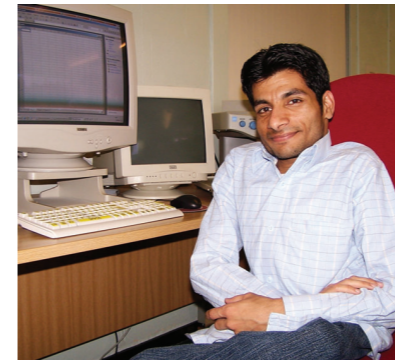
What if I don't feel ready for employment?

We understand that thinking about employment can be a big step. This is one of the reasons we have internal training sites. These sites provide realistic work experience and give you a chance to build up your skills and confidence. The training sites also give you the opportunity to try different work environments with the support of our friendly training team.

How long does the service last?

The service can continue until you no longer need it. Our overall aim is to support you until you are comfortable and happy with your employment situation.

Our quality service delivers results



Ghazanfer

Before coming to Breakthrough, Ghazanfer had been trying very hard to find employment, but without success. He says:

"I felt very disheartened, disappointed and alienated. I thought I could never play a positive role in society due to my lack of confidence at that time."

With encouragement and support from his Employment Officer, Ghazanfer found renewed confidence and motivation. He developed his IT skills, completing a course in SAGE accounting at the Breakthrough IT training site. He also received support from the Breakthrough Independent Employment Advocacy Centre in relation to a disability discrimination claim.

After completing his IT course, Ghazanfer applied for a job as a Finance Worker and was successful. He comments:

"Now I am confident and feel I can conquer the world. Breakthrough made a real change in my life; I just want to thank everyone at Breakthrough for all their help and practical support."

Louise

When Louise first started at Breakthrough she wanted to build her confidence and also find travel support. Louise is interested in IT and Retail work, and is developing her skills in both at Breakthrough's Innovation Centre. Louise's Employment Officer supported her in her successful application for a travel pass. Breakthrough then supported Louise to be able to travel to our training centre independently. In addition to this Louise received peer support from her fellow trainees to undertake an external training course with the BBC.



Louise's confidence has now grown and she says:

"Everyone at Breakthrough is friendly and supportive".



Charlene

Charlene is interested in catering. She was referred by her college so that she could get additional work experience in this area. As Charlene is not yet able to use public transport independently, a work placement was arranged with a school canteen near to her home.

Charlene is able to get there confidently on her own. We continue to support her in the placement and, with her consent, remain in touch with staff at college so that the support Breakthrough UK provides fully compliments pre-existing support.

Graham

Graham was at college one day a week and also wanted to do some voluntary work in a café. Graham's Employment Officer contacted Wythenshawe Forum Flavours and arranged an interview.



Graham started work as a Café Assistant at Forum Flavours soon after. He was unsure of how to get to the workplace so his Employment Officer supported him to learn the bus route until he felt confident enough to travel independently.

Graham loves talking to customers and has become a very popular member of staff. His manager says:

"Graham is a star, he works hard, is a valued member of staff and we look forward to seeing him every week".



Shehnaz

Shehnaz said she would like to volunteer in a charity shop near her home. With support from her Employment Officer she found a placement and very quickly became part of the team. Her manager says:

"Shehnaz has made a wonderful impact on me and other volunteers. Since joining us her work has been superb. She is always willing to help and doesn't stop till every task is completed. Shehnaz is a true treasure".



Alphonso

Alphonso came to Breakthrough initially to develop his IT skills before seeking work. When Alphonso was ready his Employment Officer supported him to apply for jobs. When Alphonso got an interview for a mentoring job his Employment Officer assisted him with interview practice and presentation preparation. Unfortunately the

mentoring position was given to someone who had more experience in the field. However, Alphonso was given some very positive feedback and advised to gain some more experience through voluntary work.

With support from his Employment Officer, Alphonso found two voluntary youth mentoring opportunities and applied for them. After interview, Alphonso was accepted for both posts. He is now working with the Youth Offending Team in Stockport and at The Heaton Norris Pavilion. His Employment Officer has stayed in touch and supported Alphonso to register with an agency which recruits social workers and teachers. He is planning to complete his training with the Youth Offending Team and to gain more experience before applying for paid posts in youth work.

Your questions answered!

What support can you give me?

We cover all aspects of employment support. This includes job searching, support to produce a CV and fill in application forms, interview preparation and support, support with setting up your business, travel support, work related training and support once you start work.

What type of work can you help me find?

It all depends on what you want to do. We can support you to find a full time job or a job that is just a few hours a week. We can help you find paid work, voluntary work, become self-employed or do 'Permitted Work.' We will support you to achieve your goals, on your terms.