

COMMUNITY CONNECTING

April 2009

Newsletter

Issue No 3

Community Connecting aim to support people with Learning Disabilities, living in Wiltshire, find and sustain independence within their local communities. This edition is around **Voluntary work** and opportunities.

Did you know?

Choosing not to be paid for your work is not the same as volunteering. *(Taken from a Guide to volunteering while on Benefits – DWP)*

What counts as volunteering?

When it comes to claiming benefits, the Department for Work & Pensions defines a volunteer as a person who is:

- Not given any money, apart from their expenses
- Not legally obliged to volunteer
- ***Doing something for a non profit organisation***
- Doing something for someone who is not a family member

If you want to volunteer and you are claiming benefits, you should discuss this with a benefits adviser before you start to volunteer.

Choosing not to be paid for your work is not the same as volunteering. If you are receiving an income-related benefit e.g. Income support, housing benefit.

The DWP might treat the wage that you would otherwise have been paid as 'Notional Earnings'. This could affect your benefits.



Community Connecting and Wiltshire Employment Support Team (WEST) work together, supporting individuals to gain skills and experience within voluntary work that can lead into paid employment.

Community Connecting Administration Office
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Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters



Meet Andrew

Andrew was referred to Community Connecting in January 09 to gain some Voluntary 'work' experience to build his confidence and skills. Andrew wanted to work locally and The Trussell Trust were approached. There was a vacancy as a

driver's mate and Andrew was interested, an application form was filled in and Andrew met with the driver's at the local recycling centre. Andrew was very keen and it was agreed he could start on Monday 16th February. Andrew took a short bus journey to the Recycling centre, and at 1pm met for lunch with other work mates, and then he went off to pick up some donated furniture.

The Community Connector went back later to see how things had gone. Everyone agreed Andrew had done a good job and could continue on a Monday with the view that if there were extra hours, and if he wanted to, he could increase his time.

With a big grin Andrew agreed and said he had enjoyed his time there!

Introducing the new member of the Community Connecting Team



Louise Murray

This is a quarterly Newsletter

Look out for the next edition in June 2009