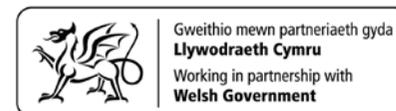




# Introduction to Engage to Change

Jenna Trakins: Project Manager



Cyflwynir gan  
Delivered by



# How it all began...

Big Lottery released details of the Getting Ahead round 2 grant, delivered in partnership with the Welsh Government using money from dormant bank accounts.

- 1 award only
- £10 million
- 5 years
- Third sector led
- Encourage partnerships

# Project Aim

To create and support long-term youth employment opportunities by engaging young people and employers.

Eligibility criteria:

- 16 to 25 years old
- NEET
- Learning disability and/or learning difficulty, including ASD
- Long term employment is a realistic option but require intensive support

# Project Objectives

1. 16 to 25 year olds with a learning disability and/or learning difficulty, including ASD are engaged in paid work placements and develop their employability skills
2. Organisations working in partnership provide supported employment opportunities to young people
3. Learning from the programme is used to inform the development of future policy in youth employment and skills
4. Understanding, awareness and knowledge of the needs of young people with a learning disability and/or learning difficulty is improved in the work place

# The partnership

The organisations working in partnership to deliver Engage to Change in Wales are:

- Learning Disability Wales (lead partner)
- Elite Employment Services Ltd
- Agoriad Cyf
- All Wales People First
- Cardiff University
- Project Search



# Project profiles

- 1000 young people with learning disabilities, difficulties and/or on the Autistic spectrum engage with the project during the 5 year period. (Elite: 664, Agoriad: 336)

Profiled deliverable outcome	Number of young people
Receiving short term unpaid placements	765
Entering a supported paid work placement	980
Moving into longer-term sustainable employment	600
Entering Volunteering opportunities	200

# Project Profiles Continued...

- 800 employers engaged to receive training, and to provide supported paid placements, and sustainable employment opportunities to young people.
- 18 ambassadors – young people who have engaged with the project – recruited to become “project champions” and promote the project and be part of regional focus groups.
- To collect and collate data from young people, service providers and employers to inform policy makers and commissioners on “what works” in getting the project target group into employment.

# Why is Engage to Change needed?

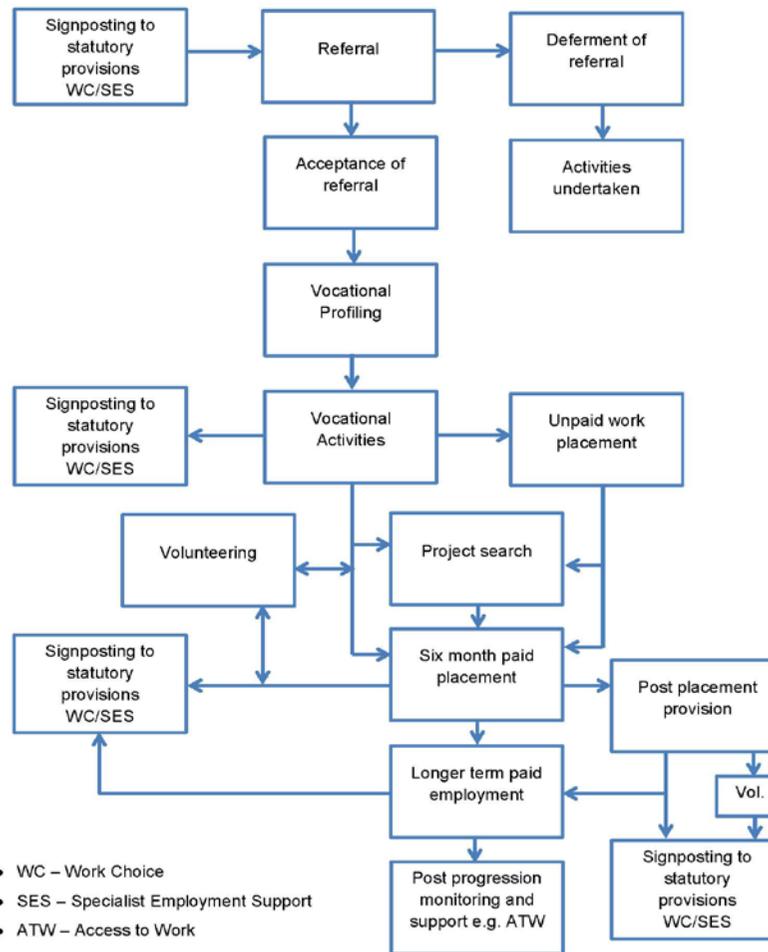
**During consultation (63 young people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and 106 parents) the following views arose:**

- 85% of young people, and 95% of their parents feel there is not enough help and support available for young people with a learning disability and/or autism to experience paid work.
- 88% of young people and 89% of parents agree that having a job coach would help young people to get a paid job.
- 85% of young people and 94% of parents agree that employers need help to understand the needs of workers with a learning disability and/or autism.

The Journey from Education to Work report (DWP 2012) found that most young people aged 18-25 with a physical or learning disability “*showed strong aspirations to be in both paid work and have a full social and family life,*” however, “*they believed they were often doubted before they were given an opportunity to demonstrate what they could do...this had a detrimental effect on their confidence to apply for work in the first place.*”

# The Engage to Change journey

The Young Persons Journey to Employment



- WC – Work Choice
- SES – Specialist Employment Support
- ATW – Access to Work

# How can I keep up-to-date with the projects progress?

- Follow us on Twitter: @engage\_2\_change
- Email [engagetochange@ldw.org.uk](mailto:engagetochange@ldw.org.uk)
- Engage to Change website under development
- Engage to Change facebook page under development