

STEPS2 INCLUSION

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STEPS2 INCLUSION



We have this booklet in large print if needed

Charity Registration Number: 1115505

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We hope you have enjoyed reading through our leaflet and learning about what we do here at Steps2 Inclusion.

With the help and input of outside bodies such as the Job Centre, Connexions, the local Youth Offending Team, Next Step, the Pluss Disabilities Team, the Pluss Mental Health Team and many, many more we hope to continue our work well into the future.

Our aim to help the four disadvantaged groups that we currently work with, the long-term unemployed, youth offenders, adults with learning difficulties and people recovering from ill mental health, all depends on the service providers who look after them working with us to achieve a positive and common outcome.

People also hear about us through the grapevine and come to us on a self-referral basis. If you know of anyone in any circumstances who you feel we may be able to help, please let them know about us.

Thank you.

Steps has fun!

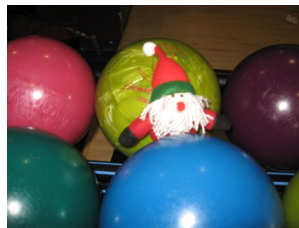
Throughout the year Steps and Steps2 staff and placements play as well as work. Occasionally trips will be organised to the local bowling alley....



We also celebrate Birthdays....



And Christmas.



Welcome from all of us.

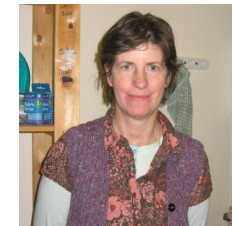
Steps has been a registered charity since March 1990. Initially the charity started out as a Toy Lending Library. Mainstream toys are adapted so that with a special external switch individuals can play with the toys by switching them on, either by, blowing, sucking, bashing, squeezing, pressing or by whatever movement remains to the individual. Steps tries to match the individual with an external switch to maximise their capabilities.



Steps is delighted to have just celebrated 20 years of our adapted developmental toy and switch lending library service.



Since 2005 the Steps charity started to work with the community helping adults with learning difficulties, youth offenders, long-term unemployed people and people recovering from mental health. It was decided to expand this section of the charity and create Steps2 Inclusion.



Steps2 Inclusion is a new part of the Steps charity and with the aid of lottery funding officially started in October 2010. There are four groups of people which the Steps2 Inclusion project aims to help. They are Youth Offenders, Long-Term Unemployed, Adults with Learning Difficulties and People in Recovery from Mental Health.



With the help of our support workers, placements are encouraged to learn new skills which will help them to integrate into society. Some people may move on to a college setting or alternatively, they may seek employment.

ADULTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Here at Steps2 Inclusion we aim to provide and teach basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic. Adults learn and work under the supervision of our support workers, often on a one-to-one basis and can learn and help within different areas of the Steps charity.

Computers

Some placements learn basic computers skills which then enables them to create a CV and an accompanying letter when applying for jobs.

**Despatch**

One of the areas where placements learn and help is the despatch room. This is the area where toys are despatched and returned. Initially a toy is despatched for use to anywhere within the British Isles. On return the toys are cleaned and tested ready for future despatch. Placements help with the cleaning and testing of the toys and replace batteries where necessary.

Electronics

If a toy is returned with a fault, e.g. a broken circuit board or broken wires, it is then sent to the electronics room. This is another area, where depending on ability, a placement may help to repair toys by welding circuit boards or re-connecting wires under supervision. They may also be shown how the circuit boards are programmed.

**General Learning**

Should a placement need help with improving their reading, writing and arithmetic, support workers will work with them on a individual basis to improve on what they already know. Steps2 Inclusion strives to help the individual to become the best that they can be.

All works here at the Steps Charity is funded by donations. To enable the Steps2 Inclusion part of the charity to grow we applied for Lottery funding and our application for funding was successful in October 2010. This funding has enabled us to employ more key staff such as a trainer and support workers which enables us to take more placements therefore helping more people in the community.



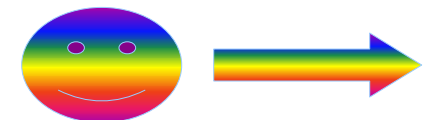
We have been successful in receiving funding from the BBC Children in Need Charity as well.



Steps is also very fortunate in that some people raise funds for us on an independent basis, e.g. running marathons, tea stalls etc. These people are often the parents and relatives of someone who benefits from the services that the Steps charity offers.

Wherever we hear that money is available we will make ourselves known and put an application forward. We can never have too much money as there will always be children and adults out there who need our help and support along with the services we offer.

And we have fun



DAY VISITS

Sometimes we may have a person from one of the four groups who is curious about what we do at Steps2 Inclusion and ask if they can visit just for a look around. After seeing what we do on an informal basis some people request a placement. So if you know of someone who may be interested in joining us but would like to see us first, phone us. Once the first step is taken in making that first call the rest will fall into place.

With the help of our support workers, placements are encouraged to practice old skills and maybe learn new skills which will help them to integrate into society. Some people may move on to a college setting or alternatively, they may seek employment.

We also have visits from people who may have donated funds but have only heard of us and want to see what we do for themselves and see what happens with the monies that they have raised. Others may be looking for a charity to support and raise funds for and come along to see what we are all about.

YOT

At Steps2 Inclusion we work within the community with the help of the Torbay Youth Offending Team. Young Offenders may come to us as part of their Youth Offending Order. On referral from the Youth Offending Team they will be assessed as to their suitability to come to the Steps charity. If successful they come to the Steps charity and spend a set amount of time with us to do their community service hours. Some will come purely to do their reparation hours whilst others will come along to do their reparation hours and learn skills or better skills they may already have.

With the help and encouragement of our support workers they will have the opportunity to learn computer skills and clerical skills as well as improve basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

They may also help in the despatch area where they will help to clean and repair toys from the lending library.



The photograph on our front cover was done by Youth Offenders in 2010 and donated to us to brighten up our office.

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED

Being unemployed for a long period of time can be distressing. People may start to feel useless, lose their confidence in a working environment and feel totally undervalued and forgotten. In today's climate, once you become unemployed the prospects for future employment look bleak. Even the simple task of applying for a job, which very often isn't even acknowledged, becomes a chore. It is very easy to get out of the routine of getting up for and going to work.

Back On The Road

To get people back on the road to employment Steps2 Inclusion aims to help people get back into "work" mode. Long-term unemployed people can be self-referred or often referred from staff at Working Links or Job Centre Plus. Placements will come to us for a period of 1 month. During their placement they may help in the general office helping Steps2 employees with general clerical and administration work. Depending on their own skills they may tutor other placements under the supervision of support workers, in their own field of knowledge, e.g. computers, electronics etc. This gives them the opportunity to get back into the role of being at work and helps them to regain their confidence in a working environment.

PEOPLE IN RECOVERY FROM MENTAL HEALTH

Suffering from Mental Health problems and being seen to be on the road to recovery from mental health problems can be a huge hurdle to overcome. Nervous breakdowns and depression leave no obvious outward signs or scars. Unlike a broken bone people cannot see a broken mind.

As with a long-term unemployed placement it is good for a person who has suffered mental health problems to get back into the community on a level basis. Again, to get back into the routine of getting up with a purpose each morning.

It may be that a person wonders if they will ever "get back to where they were" before their illness. Will prospective employers have faith in me or will they be waiting for me to "crack" again. Will I be considered for jobs that may put me under pressure?

Here at Steps2 Inclusion the aim is to give people the opportunity to ease back into a working environment and encourage them to socialise again which can be very daunting in itself. All too often people who have suffered from mental illness become isolated and without intention, excluded.

