

# Fact Sheet: 3

## What help is available?

### What help is available in College?

**Tutors** - They can often be the first point of contact when looking for work, they can offer initial advice and information as well as signpost you to where you can get further help and support.

**Inclusion Workers** - They will know you really well and perhaps understand your needs more than most. They can give some initial information and certainly help you to access other support to find work in and outside of College.

**Enrichment** - Often offered as part of your course at College, sessions are offered that will prepare you to find employment. Please ask your tutor about this.

**Student Services** - Based near reception, you can access a wealth of information all in one place. This includes accessing the Counselling Service, Careers and Welfare Teams to find out about how getting a job can affect your benefits among other things. Disability Coordinators are also available.

**Learning Coaches** - Can support students through all aspects of the course including signposting and referral to agencies.

**Learning Mentors** - Can support you through your time at college, including help cope with coming to college and others areas of life.

### What help is available outside College?

**Disability Employment Coaches (DEC)** - at Jobcentre Plus) can give you help and support regardless of your situation. They can help you find work. DECs can carry out assessments and decide what the most suitable work might be for you and can also advise about the kind of support available and suitable job vacancies.

They can also help you gain new skills even if you have been out of work for a long time or have no work experience. DECs can let you know about jobs that match your experience and skills and provide advice about: **Access to Work** and a referral, where appropriate, to the Work and Health Programme (For more information about Work and Health Programme please see Fact Sheet 2: Work schemes and programmes for employers and jobseekers).

### Services provided by Disability Employment Coaches include:

An Employment Assessment: to help you identify what type of work or training suits you best;

- a referral, if needed, for a specialist employment assessment with a work psychologist to help you prepare to find and stay in work
- a job-matching and referral service.

As part of the assessment, you may be asked to perform some tasks and provide information to help you identify your strengths, abilities and skills.

The assessment may take half a day or longer, depending on your individual needs. The DEA will discuss the length of your assessment with you beforehand.

After the assessment you and your DEA will talk about the results and agree on an action plan to help you achieve your job goals.

Your action plan may include training or taking part in the Work and Health Programme. An employment assessment does not affect your benefits.

(For more information about Work and Health Programme please see Fact Sheet 2: Work schemes and programmes for employers and jobseekers).

# Fact Sheet: 3

## Local Offer

This is available through your local council which usually includes an annual event on all aspects of disability. More information is available online and through your local council.

## Choice Unlimited

This is an annual event aimed at disabled people, older people and carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Choice Unlimited will be showcasing the diversity of information, services, products, ideas and innovation that is available to support independent living all under one roof. This event will be packed to the brim with a range of services that are available to support choice and control. Search LCiL Events 'Choice Unlimited' to find out more or to book a place.

## Useful Websites and Information

[www.abilitypath.org](http://www.abilitypath.org) - support for parents who have children with additional needs

[www.employ-ability.org.uk](http://www.employ-ability.org.uk) - support for graduates finding work

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) - national website holding a wealth of information and useful contacts

[www.evenbreak.co.uk](http://www.evenbreak.co.uk) - jobsite for disabled people looking for work

[www.dsworkfit.org.uk](http://www.dsworkfit.org.uk) - supporting individuals with Down's Syndrome

[www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk) - Mencap is the UK's leading learning disability charity

[www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk) - helps to support disabled people with a range of issues

[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk) - Royal National Institute of Blind People is a UK sight loss charity.