

SHAW TRUST, UK

Work Choice goes live!

After 25 years of Shaw Trust delivery, the supported employment programme Workstep ends on Friday 22 October and Shaw Trust will welcome the 'going live' of the exciting and long awaited Work Choice programme.

Shaw Trust Work Choice will support in the early months over 6500 customers in work; we will welcome 107 staff into the organisation through TUPE transfer arrangements from outgoing Workstep providers and we will welcome and work in partnership with over 50 specialist subcontractors.

Our new customer driven system STEP (Shaw Trust Enterprise Platform) will go live and we will be working with and supporting over 40 supported businesses, which opens up many opportunities.

During recent months staff involved in both the development and implementation of Work Choice have worked tirelessly to ensure the programme gets off to the very best start. Their dedication and commitment have ensured that Shaw Trust will commence delivery of Work Choice both effectively and efficiently with minimal disruption to our customers support arrangements.



INTEGRACJA, Poland

Cheering Winners

"Integration," closely followed the course of this year's Special Olympics Summer Games in Warsaw. Athletes with intellectual disabilities compete a bit differently, but of course they still want to win a medal!

There was a tennis match for example, where the two players had Down syndrome. One from Spain, the other from Germany. It was 2-2 and the tie-break in the final set. Emotions were running high and when the Spaniard won the final exchange, she danced a dance of victory at the German defeat. However, the first thing that both players did immediately after the end of this game was to

hug the lady judge.

There were similar stories of great contestants in ping-pong, basketball and weightlifting. Athletics is another story. During one of the races the runner in last place received a huge round of applause from the spectators in the stands on each lap. Maybe they were poking fun a little, though they probably enjoyed his tremendous effort; but the runner was clearly pleased running past them making a kind gesture.

However there is also a more sad side to the Olympics, with previously gold medal winning players in badminton, winning only bronze and silver in the

doubles. The coach told me that the defeat was a terrible experience for them and they did not show up for the next two days.

But what the Special Olympics clearly demonstrate is that everyone can compete and potentially be a winner no matter what the level of their abilities.



An athlete celebrating his achievement

INTERWORK, Australia

Maureen had been unemployed for 10 years and was finding increasing difficulty with social interaction and communication, likely linked with a learning disability acquired through injury when she was 15 years old. The longer Maureen remained unemployed the more her self-confidence and esteem was impacted, and as an older person with a significant gap in her employment history, barriers to employment were mounting up.

Maureen did not have a very good outlook on her ability to secure, let alone maintain employment, when she was referred to Interwork. Interwork provided pre-employment services to Maureen and she made some progress with regard

to her self-confidence and presentation skills. During this time Interwork was approached by the Career Development Centre to become a partner in the Mature Age Workabilities Program. Interwork immediately saw the value of this program and referred five participants to it, including Maureen.

Since the first workshop Maureen has been diligent and enthusiastic about her participation each week. Some of the benefits she has gained have been in determining her interests and direction, increasing her confidence, learning job search skills and honing her employability. Employers from a variety of industries have worked with the group to help them understand how they should present

at interview and what constitutes good work behaviour. As a result Maureen's self-confidence and personal presentation has really increased.

Following the course Maureen was successful in gaining a position as a cleaner and reports that this is a milestone for her and has provided her with the impetus to establish new networks and a new sense of identity through work.



Maureen with staff from the Career Development Centre

MOTIVATION, Romania

'Fulfilling Hopes' continues!

The house from Clinceni, where five young people with developmental disabilities and three colleagues in wheelchairs from Motivation will live, is almost ready. Work started in May, with help from over 200 Vodafone volunteers. Work on the house has been continued by volunteers from various companies, including some from abroad; such as the 45 volunteers from the American School who came to lend a helping hand on the construction site.

The project "Fulfilling hopes", is run by Habitat for Humanity and Motivation Romania, with Vodafone Romania Foundation support.

Training for Special Olympic Summer Games

Nicoleta, Mihaela, Edi and Florin, four young people with intellectual disabilities from Motivation, began sports training in order to represent Romania at Special Olympics Summer World Games 2011.

Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held in Athens from June 25 to July 4 next year and will bring together international celebrities, presidents and leaders in

education, health, business and sport. We are proud of the efforts made by our four young people to represent us in Athens!



Young people on the construction site in Clinceni

Don't forget to send your good news story through every month for the next edition of the Shaw Trust group update.