



Chopsticks (North Yorkshire) Limited

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Testimonial to the benefits of signing up for the Disability Confident Employer scheme

Chopsticks (North Yorkshire) Ltd is proud to sign up to and support the awareness raising drive for the Disability Confident Employer scheme.

Following discussions with DWP colleagues earlier this year and through an on-going partnership with our local JCP office, it became clear to us that by signing up to the scheme we would be demonstrating our organisation values and belief in the importance of demonstrating we are a responsible and inclusive employer.

Chopsticks (North Yorkshire) Ltd is committed to continuously looking at ways to develop the potential and capabilities of our disabled work team members, to showcase their range of skills and the quality of work they produce. We achieve this by providing meaningful workplace activities in a production workshop environment and through community projects that enable us to make the most of the opportunities to be gained by providing supported work experience for disabled people.

In 2017, we worked with Shaw Trust to provide a disabled contract member of staff who is registered blind/partially sighted, with specific workplace equipment in order for him to be able to work in our offices. During his time with us he was able to undertake new business development tasks and lead on small projects which have subsequently led to us gaining increased market share for our products and services, and an increased profile within our local community. He was also able to complete a successful funding bid application that led to us receiving a grant towards the development of our new facilities.

In June this year we made a decision to upgrade our facilities and make adjustments so that we can accommodate more disabled work team members in the future and who would otherwise find it difficult to gain workplace experience. This initiative will also include young adults with mental health issues and older people with long term health conditions. In August and September, we were able to provide work experience opportunities for a small group of Syrian refugees and while they are not disabled, they are nonetheless disadvantaged and experiencing isolation.



PROVIDING SUPPORTED WORK FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Industrial & Provident Society Reg No 28519R – An exempt charity

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My general management position has both strategic and operational responsibilities; one aspect of the role is business to business networking and participating in action learning groups. I use these opportunities as often as I can to promote the benefits that businesses can gain by employing disabled people. It provides me with a platform to speak about becoming a Disability Confident Employer and to recommend that businesses demonstrate progressive social values and enhance business credentials. One of the ways they can now do this is by signing up to the Disability Confident Employer scheme.

Phil Bramhall

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