

# Aspiring Prospects



## Skills for work and life



[activeprospects.org.uk](https://activeprospects.org.uk)

# Aspiring Prospects

is a training programme for young adults aged between 17 and 24 with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND), who want to find paid work.

We aim to help young people to gain employability skills and experience that employers value, and the life skills to thrive in and outside the workplace.



# How we do it

We do this through a mix of work placements, class-based learning, and structured activities.

We only have places for a limited number of young people each year, which means we have the time to get to know the strengths, skills and aspirations of each young person, and provide the right support for them to get to where they want to be. We firmly believe great things can be achieved when we work together, and actively create strong working relationships with the parents, guardians, carers of young people.



# What does the programme cover?

Each week, learners will spend two days attending work placements, with the remaining three days used for classroom-based learning and structured activities. The Aspiring Prospects curriculum covers four modules.

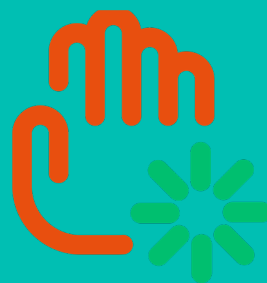


## Health & Wellbeing

This module will help learners to consider how health and wellbeing factors can impact on employment, both positively and negatively.

The module will look at themes including:

- Exploring personal ambitions, aspirations
- Exercise, keeping fit, and eating healthily
- Managing stress and anxiety at home and in the workplace
- The importance of taking time out
- Personal safety
- Staying safe online.
- Making friends, joining new friendship groups, socialising



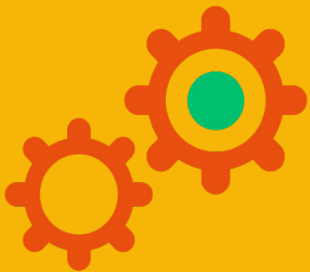
## Life Skills

Learners will learn about life skills which will help them to access paid work, and thrive in the workplace. For example:

- Personal accountability and responsibility
- Understanding the impact of your actions on others
- Managing relationships at work and outside of work
- Asking for help and working with others to solve problems
- Planning your work; managing your time
- Travel training
- Money management



# What does the programme cover?



## Readying for Work

Throughout the programme learners will be supported to learn a range of skills to improve their chances of securing employment. These will include:

- Understanding your strengths, interests, motivations, ambitions about employment
- Innovative approach to CV and application writing
- Searching and applying for jobs
- Preparing for and learning from interviews
- Receive accredited training that employers value - Level 1 courses in Fire Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR, Health and Safety, Lone-Working
- Employment specific courses could also include: Emergency First Aid and Level 2 Food Hygiene



## Work Placements

Learners will spend three days attending a mix of class-based and community-based learning. For the remaining two days learners would attend up to four work placements available through Active Prospects. These include:

- Care and support: residential and community settings
- Retail: at our Re.Work.It clothing boutique in Reigate
- Head office: reception, administration, marketing
- Maintenance: property or garden maintenance operatives
- and other local employers

# Aspiring Prospects - right for you?

To be part of Aspiring Prospects, you have to be:

- aged between 17 and 24, with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- keen to move into paid employment, with the potential to be 'work ready' within a year with the right support
- able to travel to Reigate and surrounding areas in East Surrey.



“Aspiring Prospects are like a family away from the family home”. - parents

“The staff are really supportive - I wish my school had had an aspiring prospects team!” - PM

## Who delivers Aspiring Prospects?

Aspiring Prospects is delivered by Active Prospects, on behalf of Surrey County Council. Active Prospects is an award winning care provider with charitable status, based in East Surrey, providing care and support for people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues.

Over recent years Active Prospects has developed successful employment and skills provision, including a two-year supported internship programme. During this time, we have provided over 40 supported employment or volunteering opportunities to people with a learning disability, autism or mental health issues.



## What's included?

- Annual / EHCP reviews
- Qualified Support Staff
- Assessment and Planning (based on EHCP outcomes)
- Refreshments during the day
- Materials used within placements
- Intersite transport (if applicable)
- Tools and safety equipment
- Cost of work-related qualifications

## What's not included?

- Transport from and to home
- 1:1 Personal Assistant support
- Lunch and snacks
- Healthcare support
- Therapies
- Public transport fees

## What happens at the end of the programme?

We hope that as many young people as possible will secure employment at the end of the programme, or progress onto a supported internship.

In some circumstances, it may be possible for you to repeat the programme for some or all of a second year – for example, if you feel you are close to being 'work ready' but need a bit more support or experience. If you return for a second year you will become a Peer-Mentor for new students starting the programme.

How do I apply to join the programme?

Referrals must be made by your SEND Caseworker at Surrey County Council. Active Prospects will have the final say over who is accepted onto the programme.

Once we receive a referral, we will arrange a meeting with you and your parents or carers (if they would like to come). This will give you and us the chance to discuss whether it's the right programme for you.

The programme starts in September each year, and finishes in June the following year. It's aligned with the academic year, so runs for 36 weeks of the year. If you join Aspiring Prospects, you would need to commit to attending for five days each week, with each day starting at 9am and finishing at 3pm.

The flexibility of the programme means if you are offered a paid job whilst you are still on the programme, you can either reduce your hours on the programme or leave with a personalised outreach support plan (POSP).

# How to find out more

For further information or to be referred to the programme please email:

[Aspiring.Prospects@activeprospects.org.uk](mailto:Aspiring.Prospects@activeprospects.org.uk)

Or call us on:

01737 924254

Alternatively, contact your local SEND team at Surrey County Council:

South East team (Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge)

01737 737990

