

Supported Internship

delivered by Mencap



Specialist support
for young people with
learning disabilities,
learning difficulties
and autism.

Increasing work and study options for young people through bespoke local delivery in Sutton

Mencap deliver specialist study programmes for young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Our programmes prepare young people with SEND for the world of work and help them bridge the gap between education and employment.

Young people with learning disability, learning difficulties and autism, like other people their age, want to learn and work. Too often though, they do not get the same opportunities to fulfil their potential. They may lack confidence and experience, and there are few specialist programmes that offer them the intensive support they need.

Moving young SEND people towards paid work

Mencap work with young people to help them understand what having a job means, and teach them the skills they need for work. Supported Internships involve both classroom learning and skills development (including Maths and English qualifications if needed) and a substantial work experience placement with a real employer. We match the young person with the right employer, and provide a job coach to work alongside the young person. At the end of the programme, we help with job search to help secure a paid job.

A Supported Internship is a full-time academic year study programme offering a range of benefits, helping people with SEND to:

- raise their aspirations
- build skills and confidence
- better understand employment
- show employers what they can do
- progress towards paid work.



Why choose Mencap?

Interns will have an individual assessment and action plan to outline their bespoke support package. In-depth learning sessions will help young people progress in their journey towards paid work. A vocational profile will help determine the type of role and the sectors that would be most suitable for a long-term work experience placement of 300 hours.

Our large employer network helps us to ensure the right work placement opportunity for each person. Employers can struggle to see the potential of a young person with SEND, or may be unsure how to support them. Processes such as online application processes, formal interviews and a lack of adjustments in the workplace can create unintentional barriers. Our intensive employer support addresses this.

We already successfully deliver Supported Internships in more than 20 local authority areas, supporting over 150 young people per year. We also offer a two-year option, with a year-long pre-internship programme to ensure that young people who need the most support can get the right preparation and the best chance of succeeding on an internship.

Mencap has been a long-time provider of support in Sutton. Experience on our previous programmes in the borough has shown that our model works, with:

- 57% of participants moving into paid work
- 8% moving into volunteering roles
- 22% progressing onto further training



Costs and next steps

Costs

For our Supported Internship programme, Mencap will use the national contract with the ESFA to fund Element 1 and 2. The local authority will be responsible for Element 3, negotiated on an individual basis.

To successfully deliver the programme, we need a minimum of eight referrals starting in any academic year.



Next steps

For more information on how we can deliver this study programme in Sutton, please contact:

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Registered charity number 222377 (England and Wales) SC041079 (Scotland)
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