

uk news



Job training for prisoners

Prison opportunity: Momentum staff are working in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service at HMP Edinburgh to train prisoners for jobs throughout their stay in prison.

Momentum has launched a service providing employment training to prisoners throughout their sentences and beyond.

The new Employability service sees Momentum staff, working in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service at HMP Edinburgh, to train prisoners for work throughout their stay in prison. The service will support prisoners to develop an understanding of the qualities, attitudes and behaviours that employers require, as well as focusing on job seeking and self-presentation skills.

Momentum carry out spe-

cialised assessments on each referred prisoner to establish individual action plans. These are unrelated to the length of prisoners' sentences but take into account factors such as work history, core skills and interests.

The Employability service includes an intensive two-week module delivered just before release from prison, which focuses on job search and practical support. Following their release an Employment Development Worker liaises with ex-offenders, helping them to secure employment and offering them support once in

work. Ian Welsh, Momentum's Chief Executive, said: "The Employability service gives prisoners the opportunity to access appropriate employment as soon as possible following release. It is crucial that there is no time lapse between a prisoner leaving prison and beginning to access employment and training opportunities.

"Momentum's Employability Service builds on the skills and qualifications that prisoners gain in HMP Edinburgh and ensures that these are transferable to the external employment market. While in prison offenders work closely with our in-

house team and on release are signposted to external staff who adopt a mentor role, ensuring that ex-offenders access further learning support near their homes and assisting them to look for and sustain employment."

Meanwhile, a pilot project which complements the Employability service and offers numeracy and literacy skills training to prisoners at HMP Edinburgh, has been launched by Momentum in conjunction with the Scottish Prison Service and CLAN Edinburgh.



Facing up to life after brain injury

Jonathan Smallman, editor of the handbook. "Having suffered a brain injury I know it can happen to anyone, at any time. It usually occurs without warning and leads to confusion and an overwhelming state of shock and helplessness."

A new Rehab UK publication is set to play an important role in helping people to face up to the trauma of life after sustaining a brain injury

Rehab UK has launched the 'Brain Injury Handbook', an essential guide not only for people with an acquired brain injury, but also for their families, carers and those involved in the recovery and rehabilitation process.

In the United Kingdom alone it is estimated that some 120,000 people sustain a brain injury each year – usually as a result of road accidents, but also in falls, assaults or sporting

accidents.

"One of the most chilling things about brain injury is its indiscriminate nature", says Jonathan Smallman, editor of the handbook. "Having suffered a brain injury I know it can happen to anyone, at any time. It usually occurs without warning and leads to confusion and an overwhelming state of shock and helplessness about what the short and long-term future holds.

Rehab UK's Brain Injury Handbook provides clear and concise information which assists people who have sustained a brain injury, as well as

those close to them, to deal with the often devastating consequences. It is also a useful guide for professionals working in the sector.

Divided into sections reflecting the progressive nature of a brain injury and the recovery process, the handbook includes a definition of brain injury, an introduction to how the brain works and an examination of the different types of brain injury.

It also includes sections on the likely consequences of a brain injury, the recovery and rehabilitation process and a section on returning to work.

Compensation and legal claims are also featured in the handbook, along with an extensive appendix of useful contacts and suggested further reading.

All the information included in the handbook has been drawn from detailed research, from Rehab UK's own working experience, from the personal experience of people with an acquired brain injury and their families, and from clinicians specialising in brain injury.

For further information, or to receive a free copy of the Brain Injury Handbook, please contact Elaine Ricketts, email: elainericketts@rehabuk.org