



Investing in your future
Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013
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Southampton - Overview of the Campus Project

City Limits Employment piloted a project to help a number of clients with 'high needs' to gain better access to the wider community and become more socially included. The client group consisted of 33 people, all of whom at some point have been in long term residential care. Each client is now living in their own home with 24 hour support. All our client group have profound and multiple learning difficulties and due to the high support needs we have provided an individually tailored approach to finding each person a vocational activity.

At the start of the project we developed an Ethos/Mission statement that stated we would all work to, thus ensuring an equal, fair and consistent service to each client.

The statement reads "We will incorporate the O'Brienⁱ laws into the work or vocational activities we are finding/creating and all work together as a team towards finding meaningful activities with purpose and goals for each individual client".

The Project has been running for two years and at present 25 of our 33 clients are actively engaged in vocational activities, 24 voluntary and 1 paid. There are a wide range of vocations from recycling to community farm work, refurbishing old hand tools, and even collecting golf balls from the practice greens at a local course. Listed here is a brief outline of some of the Campus project Vocations

Tools for Self Reliance - This is a charity that was set up 31 years ago, here our clients can work individually or as part of a team refurbishing donated tools and sewing machines. After refurbishment these tools are then sent to various parts of Africa to help less fortunate communities to become more self-sufficient.

Down to Earth - The community farm has been in the city for 30 years and has cows, goats, chickens, pigs and various other animals. DTE rely entirely on volunteers to clean out and feed the animals, although they have a core staff of three people who are always on hand to give advice.

Calypso Café - City Limits have the catering contract for this café, which is in the community centre in Freemantle. Here our clients can learn the basics in a catering environment, although only in a voluntary capacity.

Rosebrook Court - This is a residential home based in Southampton and City Limits also have the Catering contract for this establishment. Rosebrook is a real working kitchen that provides a two course meal for up to 70 people a day, 7 days a week. The idea is our clients can learn basic skills in Calypso then move onto Rosebrook. Once there it is a fantastic environment to further their skills in this industry perhaps with a view to moving on to paid work.

ⁱ John O'Brien's Five Essential Service Accomplishments were aimed at focusing and guiding service staff in their work. The accomplishments describe worthy

consequences of service activities. Each accomplishment supports what is considered to be a vital aspect of human experience which common practice often limits for people with severe disabilities.

Each accomplishment recognises the interdependence that exists between individuals, and challenges and strengthens the relationship between people with disabilities and other community members. The aim was to ensure that a human service programme, focused on community participation, would assist people with severe disabilities to form and maintain the variety of ties and connections that constitute community life.

Five Accomplishments of "Normalisation"

Community Presence:

The right to take part in community life and to live and spend leisure time with other members of the community.

Relationships:

The right to experience valued relationships with non-disabled people.

Choice:

The right to make choices, both large and small, in one's life. These include choices about where to live and with whom to live.

Competence:

The right to learn new skill and participate in meaningful activities with whatever assistance is required.

Respect:

The right to be valued and not treated as a second-class citizen.