



Workbridge

"I like having the chance to learn new skills and build my confidence, build relationships and make friends."

Service User, Workbridge

Workbridge

*Helping you  
to realise  
your potential*

# Having a vocation is something we all seek in life

It helps our mental health and wellbeing  
A reason to get up in the morning  
Keeps us busy during the day  
Gives us a sense of purpose  
Helps to give us our independence  
Control over our life  
Enables us to learn new skills  
Dignity  
Self-identity  
Build relationships  
Self-worth  
Meet new people  
Helping to boost confidence  
Feel part of a community  
Make positive connections

Helps us realise our potential





# The activities available to you

Based in central Northampton, Workbridge supports people with mental illness, learning disabilities, autism or brain injuries. We provide people with the chance to learn and develop work and life skills through a broad range of vocational activities in both morning and afternoon sessions.

## Catering



Our catering workshop offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in a professional kitchen environment.

### What you can learn

- Help produce hot meals for staff and colleagues each day
- Create sweet and savoury products to supply our coffee shop
- The importance of health, safety and hygiene
- Develop your skills to gain a nationally recognised food hygiene qualification

## Coffee Shop



Our successful coffee shop enables you to progress your catering skills in a customer facing environment.

### What you can learn

- How to prepare and deliver food and drink orders
- How to bake our award winning cakes
- Improve your customer service skills
- How to complete kitchen porter duties such as pot washing



## Bakery



Our bakery offers you the opportunity to produce a range of baked goods in a commercial standard kitchen.

### What you can learn

- The necessary skills to bake bread products
- Gain knowledge on food manufacturing equipment
- The health and safety and food hygiene guidelines you are required to follow





## Ceramics



The ceramics workshop produces a range of terracotta and glazed products for home and garden.

### What you can learn

- How to use slip casting techniques to create beautiful ceramic items
- The pottery techniques needed to create a clay 'slip', fill moulds, load the kilns and produce different decorative effects
- How to undertake the necessary quality checks and cleaning required



*"It's the variety of work that is so great, meeting new people and making friends."*

Service User, Workbridge

## Design and Print



The Design and Print studio operates our successful canvas print enterprise.

### What you can learn

- How to process orders
- Scan and edit images using Photoshop
- Assemble pine frames and mount canvas prints
- Take part in design projects for organisations and individuals



*"I like to come here, I've met some wonderful people and I love the work."*

Service User, Workbridge





## Grounds Maintenance and Nature Projects



Gain gardening and maintenance skills in a variety of outdoor settings, such as allotments, greenhouses and the beautiful St Andrew's grounds.

### What you can learn:

- How to develop and nurture our grounds by undertaking a range of gardening tasks
- How to use gardening and maintenance tools safely
- Gardening techniques to grow food and encourage wildlife

*"Workbridge makes me feel happy and part of a team."*

Service User, Workbridge



## Plant Nursery & Garden Centre



Throughout the seasons you will learn horticultural techniques for plant production and care such as:

- Seed sowing
- Potting on
- Wedding and top-dressing plants
- Pruning
- How to create hanging baskets and planted containers

You will work in the potting shed, polytunnels and outside in the nursery.

For those who want to gain retail experience, tasks in the garden centre include:

- Stocking up
- Serving customers
- Using the till







## Woodwork

The woodwork department creates beautiful items for home and garden.

### What you can learn

- Design and make a variety of garden, home and wildlife products
- Fulfil bespoke customer orders
- The correct way to use hand and power tools safely
- How to measure and cut materials accurately and finish products to a professional standard

*"I like to be more independent and Workbridge helps me do that."*

Service User, Workbridge





## Contracting



Our busy contracting workshop enables you to work as part of a team to complete contract packaging tasks for our local and national customers.

### What you can learn

- How to complete light assembly, mail shots and repackaging tasks
- How to shrink wrap items ready for distribution
- The importance of quality control, completing the necessary checks to complete customer orders accurately

*“Activities are adapted and broken down into smaller tasks so a person can achieve and progress at their own pace.”*

Chloe, Service Manager

## Office Skills



The office skills department supports different areas of the business with administrative duties.

### What you can learn

- A range of administrative and basic computer skills
- Discover how to use Microsoft Office software and an array of office equipment
- How to carry out business administration tasks such as cash handling, banking, data entry, post handling and photocopying

*“It’s a very nice place to work. I get treated with respect. It’s a good place to learn new skills.”*

Service User, Workbridge







## Textiles

The textiles workshop produces a range of products as well as sourcing and upcycling craft items to sell to our customers.

### What you can learn

- You'll work with techniques such as decoupage and jewellery making, as well as painting and sewing
- How to use these techniques on a variety of materials such as wood, fabric, cork, paper and glass
- How to use a sewing machine and overlocker to make bags and other gift items from fabric

*"I love seeing the product I'm working on come together, knowing I've done a good job on it."*

Service User, Workbridge



## Charity Shop

Our busy charity shop offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in a retail environment.

### What you can learn

- How to sort and price customer donations
- How to keep the charity shop well stocked and displayed
- How to use the till
- Develop your customer service skills





# Working together to achieve

Workbridge has a passionate and experienced team who can help you learn the skills necessary to achieve your goals. By working together you and the staff team will...

set personal goals to help you to improve work and social skills

Support each other

Build positive relationships

Achieve work tasks

Provide regular feedback and advice

Review progress

Share views and opinions

Feedback to others involved in your care

Socialise

Have fun

"The best thing about Workbridge is that I get understood."

Service User, Workbridge

"You are never pressurised into anything."

Service User, Workbridge





# Employment Support - take your skills to the next level

Our Employment Support service can help you take your skills outside of Workbridge and into meaningful paid or voluntary opportunities.

Working with local businesses, we can help you look for opportunities based on your skills, strengths and interests.

We will support you throughout the process, whether it's developing a CV, improving your interview skills, understanding any benefit changes or visiting you in your new environment, helping you to settle in your role.

## Work Placements

Our 12 week work placement scheme offers you an employment taster in different work environments. This will help you to further expand your experience and improve your confidence before moving into employment outside of Workbridge.

*"The best thing about Workbridge is getting prepared for going back to work."*

**Service User, Workbridge**



Curriculum Vitae





# How to attend Workbridge

Telephone **01604 872770**

Email **workbridgereferrals@standrew.co.uk**

Or visit our website

**www.workbridge.org.uk**



## Come and visit us

*See what activities  
you could do*

*Meet other service users*

*Talk to staff*

*Talk to us about how you  
might fund your sessions*

## Complete our referral form

**Send your completed referral form by email to:**

**workbridgereferrals@standrew.co.uk**

**or by post to:**

Workbridge, Braye Centre, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN4 7AD

Funding for your session/s must be agreed before we can arrange a date for your first session.

## Training and qualifications

In our workshops there are opportunities to further develop your skills with specific training and accredited qualifications.

You will receive regular reviews and feedback to support your development.







Vocational opportunities at Workbridge are open to people of varying abilities and no previous experience is necessary. We offer morning and afternoon sessions throughout the week.

You can ask to attend Workbridge directly or you can do so through your family, or care professional.

Initial visits can be arranged, giving you the chance to see the environments and speak to staff and colleagues.

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To enquire about attending Workbridge:

**T: 01604 872770**

**E:** [workbridgereferrals@standrew.co.uk](mailto:workbridgereferrals@standrew.co.uk)

**W:** [workbridge.org.uk](http://workbridge.org.uk)

Or talk to your family, or care professional.

