



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, carer or Occupational Therapist.

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

To enquire about attending Workbridge:

T: 01604 872770

E: workbridgereferrals@standrew.co.uk

W: standrewsheathcare.co.uk/vocational-pathways

Or talk to your family, carer or Occupational Therapist.



Workbridge Helping you
to realise
your potential



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

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
Dignity
Control over our life
Helps to give us our independence
Meet new people
Helping to boost confidence
Enables us to learn new skills
Make positive connections
Self-identity
Self-worth
Build relationships
Feel part of a community

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 via morning and afternoon sessions.

Catering

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

What you can learn
You can help produce hot meals for staff and colleagues each day as well as create sweet and savoury products to supply to our coffee shop. Learning about health and safety and hygiene are important aspects of attending this workshop. You can 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
Learn how to prepare food and drink orders, clean tables and develop your customer service skills.



"I've got skills my mum hasn't even got! She can't make pastry. Without being here I'd miss learning new things."
Service User, Workbridge



Ceramics



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

What you can learn

You can learn how to use slip casting techniques to create beautiful ceramic items. Guided by staff, learn the pottery techniques needed to create a clay 'slip', fill moulds, load the kilns and produce different decorative effects on clay products, whilst undertaking the necessary quality checks and essential cleaning required along the way.



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

Activities include light assembly, fulfilling mail shots, repackaging goods and shrink wrapping items ready for distribution. The tasks are varied and some require a great deal of accuracy.

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

Chloe, Service Manager

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

Service User, Workbridge



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

Service User, Workbridge



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

Service User, Horticulture

Horticulture



Our horticulture department offers opportunities to gain experience in a busy plant nursery and garden centre.

What you can learn

Throughout the seasons you will learn horticultural techniques for plant production and care, such as seed sowing, potting on and pricking out, taking cuttings, watering and feeding, top dressing and weeding.

Garden centre

For those who want to gain retail experience, tasks in the garden centre such as stocking up and serving customers provide opportunities for you to interact with the public and gain confidence in cash handling.





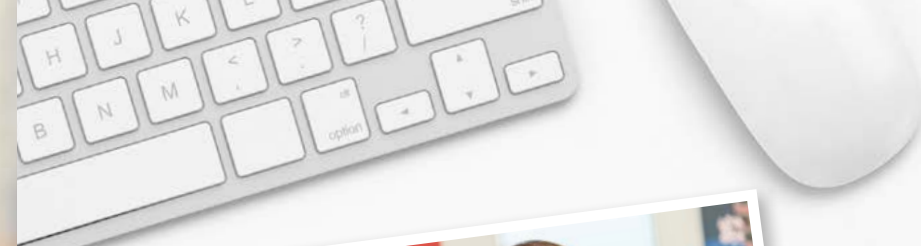
"I like to learn new skills. I like meeting all these new people. When I first started I didn't know anybody and now I have lots of friends. I'm just being honest. If I was on my own and I wanted to cook, I now have the skills. My favourite things? Everything! Being busy is the main thing."

Service User, Workbridge



"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



Office Skills



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

What you can learn

You can learn a range of administrative and basic computer skills in our office skills workshop. Discover how to use Microsoft Office software and a range of office equipment to carry out business administration tasks such as cash handling, banking, data entry, post handling and photocopying.

Design and Print



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

What you can learn

People who attend can learn how to process orders, scan and edit images using Photoshop, assemble pine frames and mount canvas prints. As well as fulfilling customer orders, Design and Print offers the opportunity to take part in design projects for organisations and individuals.





Woodwork



The woodwork department creates beautiful items for home and garden.

What you can learn

Discover how to design and make a variety of garden, home and wildlife products ready to sell in our garden centre or to fulfill bespoke customer orders. Learn how to use hand and power tools safely, measure and cut materials accurately and finish products to a professional standard.



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

Service User, Workbridge

Working together to achieve

Workbridge has a passionate and experienced staff 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

Share views and opinions

Review progress

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



Taking 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.

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, Office Skills



How to attend Workbridge

Telephone 01604 872770

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:
workbridgerefferrals@standrew.co.uk

or by post to:

Workbridge, Braye Centre, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN4 7AD
Once funding is agreed we will contact you and arrange the date of 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.

