

Who is the Vocational programme for?

The Wolfson programme was set up to offer vocational rehabilitation, advice and support, for those dealing with the cognitive, emotional and physical effects of an acquired neurological condition, such as a brain trauma, stroke or encephalitis.

Clients are of working age and committed to finding paid or voluntary work, part- or full-time, or training and education leading to employment.

Clients can be seen at any time following the onset of their condition if they have been unable to find and return to work or they are struggling with employment.

Can people join who already have a job?

Yes, the programme is for those who have no job and for those in work and planning to return or already working, but having difficulty.

Does the programme provide vocational qualifications?

No, the aim of the programme is to help the client re-enter the workplace as they are now. For some clients obtaining additional training or experience is important and the team will aim to help each person find suitable courses or training, but the majority of our clients do not take that route.

Do you provide sheltered employment?

No, we aim to help people find real jobs in the real world. Our clients have a range of jobs and occupations including plumbing, nursing, secretarial and clerical work, and positions in the financial world.

What happens if a client does not have a job?

Many of our clients have never worked or have limited work experience because their injuries occurred at a young age. They may need to develop new and different goals that fit their situation, a process that can be difficult and take time. The programme is run by vocational professionals who are experienced in neurorehabilitation and they aim to help each person develop realistic aspirations, research the job market, develop their work skills and apply for and move into jobs that will last.

Does everyone get paid work?

Not always. The programme aims to help people get paid employment, part- or full-time, when that is an appropriate goal, but for some unpaid work is a more appropriate goal and better meets their needs and aspirations.

What happens if someone has difficulty at work in the future?

Many people with acquired brain injuries can find and obtain work, but have difficulty holding down jobs in the long-term. The Wolfson programme therefore provides long-term on-the-job support as needed. This may involve going to the workplace and liaising with the client, employers and colleagues, providing one-to-one support and job coaching, or being available in other ways such as on the telephone or by email.

How is the programme funded?

The programme consists of three Phases (I Assessment, II Work preparation, III On-Job Support) and each can be funded separately, so the intervention is tailored to the individual requirements of the client. Clients are funded by a variety of bodies including NHS commissioners, Social Services, Company policies, Case Managers, Solicitors and Insurance companies.

Do you help with changes in terms and conditions?

The team do not offer advice on contractual issues with employers, but will provide support in accessing information regarding legal rights from suitable services such as the Disability Law Service

How can I tell whether the programme is suitable?

Following referral, potential clients are seen for an initial interview by members of the Vocational team. Relatives and other professionals, such as a Case Manager, are welcome to attend. The aim is to see whether the programme is right for the client and if not, consider alternative ways they can be helped.

How do I refer?

Please email a completed referral form via our confidential address to **stgh-tr.WolfsonVocationalProgramme@nhs.net**, or fax to 020 8266 6515.

Alternatively return to The Wolfson Vocational Rehabilitation Programme, Phoenix Centre, St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, SW17 0QT.

A client's suitability for the programme can also be discussed with the team prior to completing the referral.