

## NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to EmployAbility Midlands Service

EmployAbility Midlands is an employment and recruitment service to assist people with a disability or illness to find and maintain employment in the open labour market. We provide a range of supports to employers and job seekers with disabilities through our team of Employment Officers. For further assistance and information please contact our head office on 057 93 23901.

### EmployAbility Service and Covid-19

Society has gone through unimaginable changes since March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted severely all aspects of community, economic and family life. While adapting to the changing restrictions, it is important to note that EmployAbility Midlands' continue to provide the same support to job seekers and employers with enquiries, assessment, guidance, job search & job coaching via electronic/remote means.

Where a face to face meeting cannot be accommodated, we are available to assist you via phone, zoom, skype email etc. Electronic communications have allowed the company to operate by facilitating regular meetings during these exceptional circumstances.

We want to reassure you that the EmployAbility Service Midlands continues to be available from 9-5 Monday to Friday. Where essential, we can facilitate face to face meetings by appointment.

#### Please contact us on:

057 9323901 or tullamore@employabilitymidlands.com and we will advise on how best we can assist you.

### Edenderry Golf Club Testimonial

The working relationship between Edenderry Golf Club and EmployAbility Midlands is based on a sense of equity, justice and reciprocity. It is a finely balanced, yet compatible arrangement where both partners are benefitting immensely.

Both Martin and Derek have become important members in the overall structure of our course maintenance plan. They are diligent and meticulous, striving at all times to do the best they can with every task. Our Head Green keeper, David, manages the team with empathy and understanding and in return their respect for him is clearly evident. The oversight and support which we receive through Patricia from EmployAbility Midlands plays a significant role in this success. It is the knowledge that the support is constant that affords this sense of security.

Our relationship with EmployAbility Midlands is truly a win win situation. The golf club came from an ethos of social responsibility, allied with the pragmatic hope of unearthing much needed assistance with our course maintenance. At this point we can only hope that the two men and EmployAbility Midlands feel they are as happy as we are. We would highly recommend the EmployAbility Midlands service to any other potential employer.

*Siobhan O'Callaghan, Committee Member.*

### Work Experience

A formal interview requires an employer to evaluate, in a short amount of time, a job applicants' suitability for a vacancy. With over twenty years' experience supporting Jobseekers into employment, EmployAbility Midlands know that sometimes the best candidate for a job does not always perform the best in an interview situation.

Our seven-week Work Experience Programme offers an employer an extended interview – allowing an employer to evaluate, in real time, the performance and suitability of a candidate. The Jobseeker benefits from hands on experience and additional time to demonstrate their ability to perform in the role. EmployAbility Midlands can assist the employer with structuring the work experience and identifying appropriate tasks.

The programme is flexible, fitting in with the employer's requirements. Work experience can be full time or a few hours a day for 2 – 3 days per week. Participants can receive €20.00 per week (maximum 7 weeks) toward travel and meal expenses. This amount is to be paid by the employer and reimbursed, in arrears, by the EmployAbility service.



Martin (on the right) and Derek (on left)

## The Wage Subsidy Scheme

"The Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS) offers financial assistance to employers to encourage them to employ people with disabilities, where a shortfall in productivity exists. Funded by the Department of Social Protection, the WSS is available to private sector employers who employ qualifying individuals for between 21 and 39 hours per week.

The Wage Subsidy Scheme will pay €6.30 per hour to employers where employment is for a minimum of 21 hours per week (maximum 39 hours per week = €12,776 per annum). For example: It will cost an employer €88.20 per week (excluding PRSI) based on 21 hours at minimum wage rate. (The above figures are effective from 1st January 2022).

EmployAbility Midlands is available to assist and support employers to access the WSS. With an untapped pool of qualifying jobseekers who range in skill level from professionals to graduates and school leavers. EmployAbility Midlands provide some of the most competitive solutions to employers' recruitment needs.

For further information, please contact EmployAbility Midlands on 057 – 932 3901

## Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP)

The Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP) is a work experience programme for jobseekers in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment and who have been unemployed for six months or more. It aims to provide jobseekers who have never had a job or who have lost employment with an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience.

Participants will receive a WPEP personal allowance of €306 per week regardless of other income or means. In addition, Participants will continue to receive any underlying entitlements for qualified adults and children and any underlying secondary welfare benefits they had an entitlement to prior to commencing a WPEP placement. Payment will be made by the Department of Social Protection (DSP).

To participate on the WPEP, an individual must be:

- aged between 18 and 65 years of age, and
- in receipt of a qualifying DSP payment for a minimum period of 156 days (6 months) in previous 12 months prior to WPEP application

The qualifying payments are:

- Jobseekers Allowance
- Jobseekers Benefit
- Jobseekers Transitional Payment
- One-Parent Family
- Disability Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Farm Assist
- Jobseekers Benefit for the Self-Employed

For further information on the above schemes and programmes please visit [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) or call our Head Office on 057 93 23901

*With the support Mark received from Employability Midlands and his empowering employer Gerry Ellis and sons, Mark has regained his confidence, and is now a very valued member of the team at Fresh Today in Longford. Picture: Mark (left) and Michael Ellis (right).*



Our office locations

EmployAbility MIDLANDS

Do you need support to find employment?

057 - 932 3901



[www.employabilitymidlands.com](http://www.employabilitymidlands.com)



An Roinn Coimisce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection