



How the Engage to Change project is working in the coronavirus emergency

13 May 2020

About Engage to Change



Engage to Change is a project that supports young people with a learning disability or autism in Wales to find and keep paid jobs.

The project is run by a group of organisations working together. These are called the **project partners**:



- Learning Disability Wales



- Agoriad Cyf



- All Wales People First



- Cardiff University



- Elite Supported Employment



Engage to Change also works with **DFN Project SEARCH** to support young people get the skills they need to get paid jobs.



What has Engage to Change been doing since the coronavirus emergency started?



The [project partners](#) have found new ways to make sure the project can keep going during the coronavirus emergency.



They are making sure they follow the guidelines from the government to keep everyone safe.



Engage to Change [project partners](#) are meeting online every week to make plans for when the coronavirus emergency is over.



How is Engage to Change keeping in contact with everyone?

Staff working on Engage to Change have been keeping touch with lots of different people:



- Other staff working on the project
- Staff working in other organisations
- Young people taking part in the project
- Families and carers of young people
- Employers.



Staff have been using different ways to keep in touch with everyone:

- Email
- Video calls like Zoom or Skype
- Phone calls.



What are Engage to Change staff doing at the moment?



Engage to Change project staff are still working hard.



Here are some of the things they are doing:

Name	<i>R. Smith</i>
Address	<i>224 West St</i>
	<i>Manchester</i>
Phone Number	

- Answering questions about Engage to Change.
- Collecting information about young people who want to join the project.



- Doing assessments for young people who are joining the project.



- Giving information to young people and their families or carers to help them choose what they want to do.



- Supporting young people who want to get new skills to help them find jobs. Like doing courses or practising for job interviews.



- Supporting young people who are still working.



- Giving information and support to young people whose jobs have changed since the coronavirus emergency.



- Doing risk assessments for young people to carry on working. Or for young people to start work.



- Helping people get benefits if they need them.



- Sharing information about looking after your wellbeing when you are staying at home.



- Talking to employers and giving them information.



- Working with **project partners** to look at ways to support more young people from September.



- Doing **research** to find out how the coronavirus is affecting the lives of people with a learning disability or autism in Wales.

Research is finding information about something. Like people or the world around us.



- Working with people with a learning disability to make surveys that are easy to understand.



- Making sure there is information about coronavirus that is easy to understand.



- Talking to Welsh Government and other people about jobs for disabled people. Like making sure there is good support for people to find and keep paid jobs.



- Checking how the project is doing and writing reports.



How to join the Engage to Change project

You can still join the Engage to Change project if you want to.

To join the project you must:

- be aged between 16 and 25 years old
- have a learning disability or autism
- live in Wales
- want to work and get new skills
- have support from family or other people
- **not** have a job
- **not** be in school, college or doing training.



If you want to join the project and you live in **North Wales, north Ceredigion or north Powys** you can contact **Agoriad Cyf**:



Email: e2c@agoriad.org.uk

Phone: 01248 361392.

If you want to join the project and you live in **South Wales, south Ceredigion or south Powys** you can contact **Elite Supported Employment**:



Email: tmoore@elitesea.co.uk

Phone: 07943 866 246.



You can find out more about Engage to Change on our website www.engagetochange.org.uk.

You can also follow us on:



- Twitter [@Engage_2_Change](https://twitter.com/Engage_2_Change)
- Facebook [@engagetochangewales](https://www.facebook.com/engagetochangewales)
- YouTube [Engage to Change](https://www.youtube.com/Engage_to_Change).



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