



## Services will help people experiencing poor mental health find and keep work

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT), working in partnership with Employ-Ability, has been awarded two new contracts by Essex County Council to provide mental health supported employment services across Essex.

Working with Essex and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups, EPUT and Employ-Ability will continue to provide an Employment Service but will now also run an Employment Retention Service to help people experiencing poor mental health find and maintain work.

The services commenced on 1 July 2020 and are contracted to run until April 2023.

### Employment Service

- The Employment Service is available throughout Essex including Southend.
- It helps people receiving support from a secondary mental health team secure work through the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model.
- Employment specialists help people set career goals, write CVs, prepare for interviews and build the confidence to enter the workplace.

### Retention Service

- The Employment Retention Service is available throughout Essex, excluding Southend.
- It enables people in employment but experiencing mental health difficulties to find support so they are more likely to be able to continue working.
- The service is open to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties.
- Referrals will be considered from employers, clinicians in secondary, primary and social care, occupational health and learning providers. Members of the public can also self-refer.

Both services will work closely with clinical teams, local authorities and other key stakeholders to respond quickly to those who need support.

EPUT and Employ-Ability currently provide the Individual Placement and Support Services (IPS) in Essex to support those in secondary services to secure work. However the Retention Service is a new service which evolved from the success and demand of the service being offered through IPS.

Both services can be accessed by calling 0300 7900 573 or emailing [epunft.employmentservices@nhs.net](mailto:epunft.employmentservices@nhs.net).

Working in partnership, EPUT and Employ-Ability have successfully delivered employment services in Essex for more than a decade. The service was one of the first to be recognised as a National Centre of Excellence by the Centre for Mental Health and since 2019 has worked with Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust to deliver a West Suffolk, Ipswich and East Suffolk Service.

