

## ***Sharpening up Supported Employment***

After a period of enthusiastic development, Supported Employment, Job Retention and Individual Placement and Support services face new challenges, including

- Fewer good jobs available. Questions about whether there is any point in trying to get paid work in a time of recession, both because of increased competition for vacancies and the reduction of job quality (lower pay, overwork for post holders, job insecurity).
- More people needing support. Closure of traditional day services combined with shrinkage of voluntary sector supports may be pushing their service users towards employment services, while high unemployment and benefit cuts has increased the number of people experiencing poverty and distress.
- Service reconfiguration. The rollout of personalisation, combined with repeated service reorganisation has made it harder for vocational specialists to build productive networks across organisations and sectors and present a coordinated message to employers.

You may wish to arrange a stakeholder event or to invite NDTi to carry out a review of your existing services and make recommendations for development. Either route provides an opportunity for you to join with partners and stakeholders in renewing your vision for a joined-up approach that will eliminate unwarranted variations in employment opportunities for people with disabilities or mental health issues. You will have an opportunity to:

- Review the balance of investment in vocational preparation, employer capacity building, self employment and social firms, onsite coaching and job retention activities
- Consider what happens for people who need specific kinds of support
- Build a local action plan for how to increase the number of people who get and keep a decent job.

Contact Peter Bates at [peter.bates@ndti.org.uk](mailto:peter.bates@ndti.org.uk) to book your event.