



Enabling People with Learning Disabilities

Press Release

Merchant Hotel's partnership with NØW is awarded

The NØW Project uses the Model of Supported Employment to enable individuals with learning disabilities to get the job they want and keep it. NØW's Employment team has been very successful recently in supporting trainees into paid work. Their mixture of professionalism and determination has enabled them to build up excellent relationships between the individual looking for work, their parents/carers and local employers.

Brian Maguire, Employment Services Manager for NØW says *"local employers are often apprehensive when our team approach them to discuss employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. We have found however that their concerns are often unfounded and many employers report that the service provided by NØW has enabled them to take on staff who become an integral part of their workforce"*.

A big piece of NØW's work is developing relationships with local employers which can lead to employment opportunities for NØW's trainees. This work is integral to NØW achieving it's mission and this year NOW Introduced the Employer of the Year Award picked up by The Merchant Hotel.

Maeve Monaghan, Executive Director of the NOW Project, said: *"NOW are always keen to build links with local employers and it gives us great pleasure to acknowledge The Merchant Hotel as a company truly committed to promoting equality within their business. We welcome the opportunity to engage which*

such a high profile employer and look forward to working with the Merchant Hotel over the coming years.”

The award was accepted on behalf of the Merchant Hotel by their employees Jeffery Roberts (ex-trainee of NØW), Fiona Humphries (HR Manager ,Merchant Hotel) and Joe Alexander (Stores Manager, Merchant Hotel).