

Surrey Supported Employment Ltd

Annual Report 2009 – 2010

Another challenging and exciting year for Surrey Supported Employment set against a backdrop of economic and political uncertainty and a growing debate across the spectrum about the nature of public services and welfare.

This annual report inevitably looks back over the past year. It demonstrates the ongoing development of services to our members and the wider community through our helpline, the South East Employment Network, our training programmes and conference. It reflects the particular challenges in accessing sources of funding to implement programmes to enable people to obtain work and perhaps understates the tenacity and commitment required of our partners to deliver.

A report is by definition an historical document yet it establishes the foundation upon which an organisation can grow and flourish and for Surrey Supported Employment that will be a demanding one as we view the future. The political environment is still being shaped by the new 'Coalition Government' and we await with some trepidation the outcome of the spending review due in the autumn, although the signposts have been set by the recent budget announcements. We know that 'less' is intended to mean 'more!' We know that for many people with a disability or a mental health problem more will be expected in terms of personal responsibility and budget management. And more will be demanded of social welfare organisations and of our members in the field of supported employment. We may need to develop our own new coalitions and be increasingly open to innovation and change.

This report does outline developments for the forthcoming year. We will need to be quick on our feet in responding to emerging policy as it affects the job market, welfare benefits and the most vulnerable in our society. There is an experienced team of Directors and staff in Surrey Supported Employment who will embrace the future with energy and commitment and my thanks go to them for all their work and effort over the past year.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity and privilege I have had to act as Chairman of Surrey Supported Employment for the past four years. I am standing down as a Director at the end of 2010 confident that Surrey Supported Employment will continue to grow and flourish.

Roger Deacon
Chairman – Surrey Supported Employment

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