

The Hub



Working together for life beyond disability



CEO Clive Tuck

The Hub is a Yeovil-based community charity that supports and empowers those with learning disabilities and autism who are looking to lead full, active and meaningful lives. The charity improves their chances of employment and increases their ability to be independent through partnerships with a variety of social enterprises and local organisations. CEO Clive Tuck tells *The Parliamentary Review* that the Hub is a place to feel included, not isolated; a space where people can be safe and independent while still experimenting with real-world situations.

At the Hub, we provide support and training that empowers the lives of adults and young people with learning disabilities and autism.

Our mission statement is "Working together for life beyond disability." This filters down through everything we do; our "yes, we can!" philosophy helps us to work together with people to unleash their talent. We support the people we work with to find that talent, in a safe and friendly environment – it's really that simple, and our process works.

Our vision and values

We want to see people with learning disabilities and autism enjoy equal access to leisure, learning and development opportunities, supporting them all the way through to employment.

FACTS ABOUT THE HUB

- » CEO: Clive Tuck
- » Founded in 2010
- » Located in Yeovil, Somerset
- » Services: Support and coaching that empowers the lives of adults and young people with learning disabilities and autism
- » No. of employees: 20
- » www.thehubyeovil.co.uk

“This means there’s no such thing as a “normal” day at the Hub. We work in a number of ways with our trainees, helping them to find meaningful occupations and empowering them to do more”

We achieve this by increasing the independence and wellbeing of those we work with through inclusive, enjoyable social groups and a variety of enrichment activities. We are constantly looking to support more and more individuals with learning disabilities into paid employment, by engaging with our thriving social enterprises or working with local employers through our supported employment agency.

Core ethos

Our core ethos has three key strands, which are:

- » Autonomy and community, together: The opportunities we create for others form the foundation of everything we do at the Hub
- » The right to individuality: Our personalised approach allows us to focus on individual needs, wants and aspirations as we continue to grow
- » Uncompromised ambition: We look beyond disabilities to help develop aspirations beyond barriers

These strands inform and filter down into everything we do at the Hub – whether that’s a training session or the way we talk about moving forward as an organisation.

Our “yes, we can!” ethos drives everything we do



The Hub’s brand-new centre

The beauty of our 9,500 square-foot warehouse, the Hub venue, lies on the inside. Equipped with a vast and diverse range of facilities for people with learning disabilities and autism, our brand-new building allows us to deliver on our vision day in, day out.

We work with our trainees in the Hub to deliver sessions in everything from recycling and cooking to serving customers and even a spot of gardening. These vital skills that we deliver to those we work with aren’t just a series of people sitting down giving talks in classrooms – at the Hub, we teach and learn in a hands-on, enjoyable manner.

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The political and economic landscape for a charity like ours

In spite of the outstanding and tireless work our excellent volunteers put in, things aren’t always easy. Funding is one particular issue not just for us, but for charities across the UK – current funding is being cut in real terms, which in turn results in services for adults with learning disabilities and autism being cut. Local authority services are not appropriately equipped to deliver the support they should be providing.

Social enterprises are under-resourced, and we are only continuing to see a lack of available funding in the sector. While government targets regarding getting adults with autism and disabilities into work are great markers of movement in the right direction, more can always be done.

With all that in mind, this is still a great time to be a community charity in the UK. If we prepare ourselves for the restructuring of local authority services and ready ourselves for the sea change that will come in the years ahead, our excellent team and their brilliant work will continue to drive us forward.

Technology and equipment is everything

One of the biggest challenges where a lack of funding becomes an issue is with equipment. When we experience funding cuts, we do have to hold back on new IT and office systems, or not buy that new piece of catering equipment that would continue to deliver an outstanding experience for our trainees.

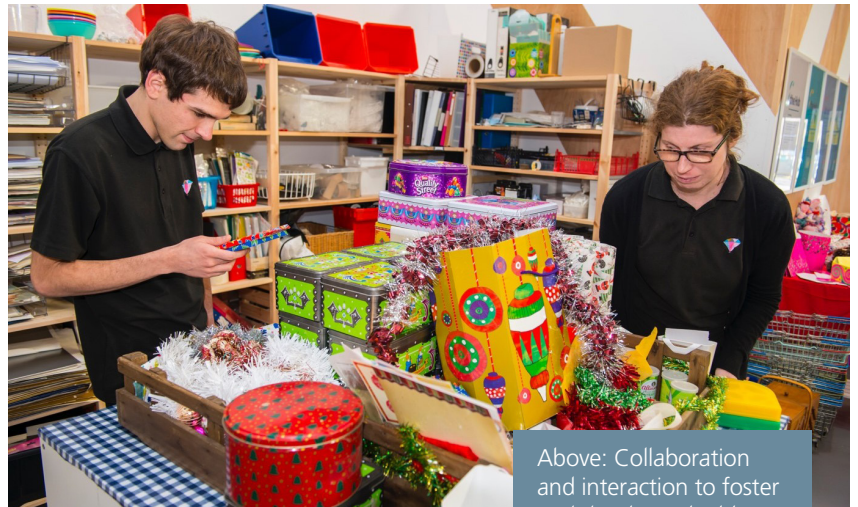
In an ever-changing technological world, it is so important to have new systems and new equipment at your disposal. Things like reliable telecommunications, an advanced website and comprehensive Wi-Fi access can mean the difference between an organisation like ours thriving or failing.

Our aims – 2020 and beyond

The next few years are so critically important for us. To have a concrete set of targets that we look to reach in the next few years, we have set out three strategic aims. These are:

- » Establishing a sustainable future
- » Building a reputation for excellence
- » Growing the charity

A sustainable future through financial stability, corporate partnerships and sponsorship strategies will allow us to continue delivering the services that matter to the people who need them the most. We will be well equipped to provide tangible benefits through a variety of reinforced and well-supported spokes, specifically



Above: Collaboration and interaction to foster and develop valuable skills

Below: People with a learning disability at work in one of our social enterprises – the Yeovil Scrapstore

with regard to an effective supported employment agency.

A reputation for excellence will come through staff, stakeholder and trainee satisfaction – which we will measure through a variety of feedback metrics – a clear structure and a consistent approach that is universally agreed across the charity.

While both of these points will support the growth of our charity, this will also require a significant amount of work alone. By developing partnerships with neighbouring county services, expanding our capacity in the building and hopefully forming a partnership network with community-led services, activity providers and commissioners alike, we will be able to continue delivering the excellent work we have started to become renowned for.

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