

2026 Supported Employment Full Awards Criteria

David Grainger Award

This award is presented to a disabled person who inspires other people to have high aspirations in employment, who has changed perceptions around what disabled people can achieve or progressed in their chosen career. This award looks to celebrate the achievements that disabled people make in breaking down the barriers for other disabled people entering the labour market. The nominee needs to have been in a paid role for 8 hours per week for a minimum of six months and an advocate of good careers for others.

1. Provide a short impact statement on how this individual has inspired others and changed perceptions (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases how the individual advocates for good careers for other disabled people, please include the experiences of a wide variety of people. (Max 150 words)

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Innovation Award

This is an opportunity to celebrate the huge innovation that happens across the Supported Employment sector. From tech programs to co-produced resources, this is a chance to show, how through innovation, you are driving up engagement within the Supported Employment work.

1. Provide a short statement on what innovation you have developed, the partnerships involved and the impact so far. Also include how you plan to use this innovation to continue to improve employment outcomes for disabled, neurodivergent and disadvantaged people. (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases the innovation in action, the impact on people, including key stakeholders. (Max 150 words)

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Jurgen Donaldson Award

This award is presented to an individual who is disrupting the status quo when it comes to being Disability Confident Ambassador. They have demonstrated leadership within their organisation or advocacy to push for policy that go beyond the tick-box or the logo on a website. This award looks to celebrate an individual who is not afraid to push back on policies that are not supportive of creating meaningful career pathways or do not support disabled people within the workplace.

1. Provide a short impact statement of how this individual has demonstrated leadership and created meaningful change to ensure disability confidence is something disabled people can trust.

(Max 150 words)

2. Provide a short statement that showcases how the individual advocates for Disability Confident policies or programmes, please include the results or data on how this individual has created meaningful change to ensuring being disability confident is an action and just a statement of intent.

(Max 150 words)

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Large Employer Award (<1000 employees)

This is an opportunity to recognise a large employer (over 1000 employees) who has shown Disability Confidence leadership in action. To qualify for this award, the Employer must have embedded disability inclusion into their policies, recruitment processes and training.

1. Provide an example of one of the organisation's policies that has disability inclusion embedded.
2. Provide an example of how the recruitment process has been reviewed, amended to be more inclusive- this could include providing work trials, work experience, working interviews, questions beforehand. [150 words max]
3. Provide examples of how the Supported Employment model has been embedded into their workforce planning, this could be Supported Internships, Open employment, Apprenticeships. Showcasing a range of employment opportunities. [150 words max]

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Large Supported Employment Team

This is an opportunity to celebrate the collective success of a large team of 30 plus people working in supported employment, who have achieved high numbers of good quality employment outcomes for disabled, neurodivergent or disadvantaged people. As part of the nomination, you will need to demonstrate the role that all team members have played in the achievement and the subsequent impact resulting from the team effort.

1. Provide a statement about the team and demonstrate the impact that the team has had, including numbers of people supported into work and how this relates to high aspirational careers. (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases the teams' experiences and why they are proud of the work they have achieved, including the experience of all stakeholders. (Max 150 words)

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Practitioner of the Year Award

This is an opportunity to celebrate an individual who works within a Supported Employment team and has gone above and beyond in promoting inclusive recruitment both locally and nationally. The award will celebrate an individual who demonstrates partnership working and innovative practice and has achieved high numbers of well-matched employment outcomes for disabled people.

1. Provide a short impact statement on how this individual has gone above and beyond to promote inclusive recruitment- including the % of job outcomes compared to team average or % of employer partnerships compared to team average. An example of how this best practice has changed a disabled persons life through well matched employment. (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases the work achieved by the person, including the experiences of key stakeholders. (Max 150 words)

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Small/Micro Employer (>1000 employees)

This is an opportunity to celebrate those smaller employers, who are making a difference one person at a time, within their local communities. This category recognises employers with less than 1000 employees, who have embraced disability inclusion and embedded it into local recruitment.

1. Provide a short statement from the Employer about why disability inclusion is important to them (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement about the impact this inclusion has had on individuals and communities – (Max 150 words)
3. Short statement that showcases the work the employer has done to increase the numbers of disabled people working for them and the impact on their business. (Max 150 words)

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Small Supported Employment/Social Enterprise Team

This is an opportunity to celebrate a small but highly effective team, who on limited resources have high ambition in promoting inclusive recruitment within their community. You will need to demonstrate how the team is utilising limited resources for the greatest impact and the partnerships developed to drive this ambition.

1. Provide a short statement about the team and the work you are doing locally to promote inclusive recruitment. (Max 150 words)
2. Statement that showcases the team and how they are utilising limited resources for the greatest impact, including the experience of all stakeholders. (Max 150 words)

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Social Value Award

This is an opportunity for organisations to demonstrate how they have embedded social value at the heart of a contract. This could be a business that has used the Public Social Value act to drive genuine inclusive recruitment or a provider that embedded social value into a contract to drive employment outcomes.

1. Provide a short statement that describes the contract and how social value was embedded at the heart. Also describe the impact of the social value and what that means for disabled, neurodivergent and disadvantaged people. (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases the work that has been achieved through the contract and how this learning can be shared with others to promote great social value as part of contracting. (Max 150 words)

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Supported Employment Leader

This is an opportunity to celebrate the leadership of an individual who has supported a team to embed best practice, innovation and/or clear leadership through a challenging time. This award recognises the ability of an individual to create a supportive workplace culture, rather than the position someone holds within an organisation.

1. Provide a short impact statement on how this person's leadership has led to - greater collaboration and partnership, increased numbers of job outcomes for disabled, neurodivergent people, improved quality against the five stages of supported employment and or creating a positive work culture where everyone can flourish. (Max 150 words)
2. Short statement that showcases what this strong leadership has meant to as many stakeholders as possible. (Max 150 words)

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The Inspiring Voice Award for Supported Employment in Europe

This is an opportunity to celebrate the people that drive change across the Supported Employment sector in Europe. This award aims to champion those who are making a difference to other individuals' lives through supported employment; this could be a person with a disability, a professional or a leader in the sector.

1. Provide a short statement on the person nominated, what they advocate for, why you consider them to be inspiring, and the impact their voice has had within the Supported Employment landscape. (Max 150 words)
2. Give an example that brings this impact to life; e.g. a story or description of a situation that demonstrates their passion and impact. (Max 150 words)

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