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Re: **JobConnect and School Work Experience**

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your enquiry about JobConnect@badaguish. This letter intends to give a broad outline of how we came about and what we do. JobConnect aims to provide work opportunities for people affected by learning disability. This is achieved by ensuring everything we do is person-centred, and as such, does not draw a distinction between sheltered employment (working in a supported environment like Badaguish) and open employment (for instance, working in Tesco): the individual decides and we try to support them in that decision.

My post as project manager was the result of a partnership formed by Silvie MacKenzie (manager of Badaguish respite) with Patsy Rimmel (a teacher at Kingussie High), Thelma Macbeth (manager of Caberfeidh day centre), and Ellie Wolf (project manager of Health and Happiness). The partnership was created in response to the apparent shortage of learning disability employment opportunities for those living in the Badenoch and Strathspey region. My job has been to develop the programme.

Currently we have 2 part-time job coaches (Simon works in bicycle and grounds maintenance; and Ged who works in housekeeping) and myself as manager/coordinator. At the moment we are supporting 2 school pupils and 5 young adults. Crucially, we try providing clients with a real sense of job satisfaction. This is achieved by matching them to specific jobs for which they then become responsible. Working in this way also provides me with information required for completing a vocational profile, from which realistic potential employment opportunities can be explored.

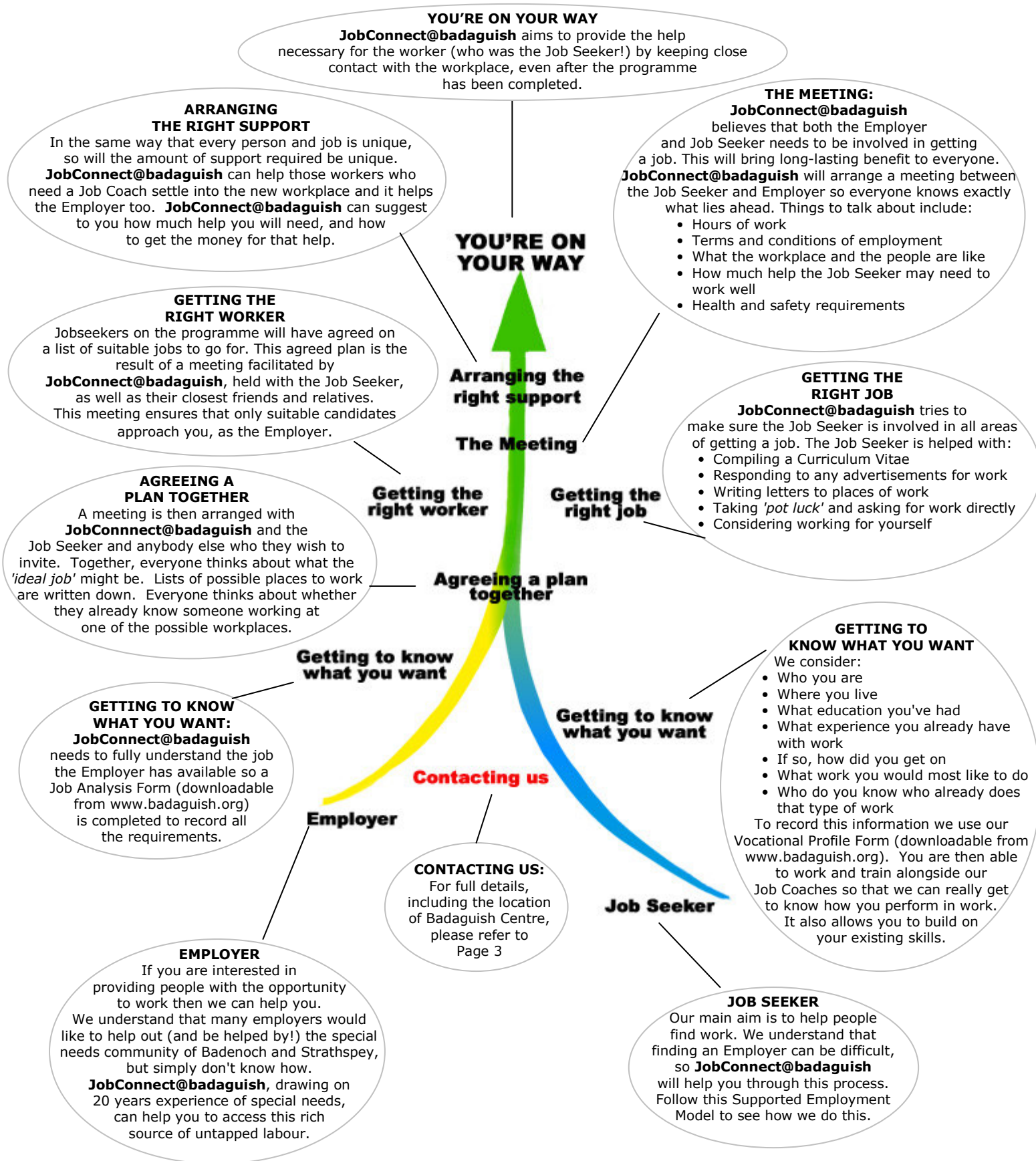
Looking forward, the fantastic positive feedback received by JobConnect at a recent large charity event has provided the impetus to extend our work into the community. The first step was taken recently with the purchase of a dedicated JobConnect vehicle. Additionally, we are a Scottish Quality Assurance (SQA) Training Centre and we provide work related SQA modules. Apart from adding substance to an individual's C.V., this training also impacts upon other non-work aspects of their lives. Indeed, JobConnect believes work to be an essential part of anyone's life, regardless of ability.

Finally, I would like to say that the programme is underpinned by nearly two decades of learning disability experience: we recognise the need for flexibility and adaptability in meeting the needs of each individual. If you have any further questions regarding what JobConnect can offer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Carroll

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT MODEL



CONTACTING US

To get started contact Bradley Carroll:

By telephone/fax: 01479 861285

By mobile: 07857421611

By email: brad.c@badaguish.org

WHERE WE ARE

Situated in the Highlands of Scotland and the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, Badaguish Centre is approximately 5 miles from the south end of Aviemore which is just off the main A9 Perth to Inverness road.



To find Badaguish from Aviemore, take the road at the south end of the village signposted for Cairngorm and Loch Morlich and continue for 5 miles. Badaguish is signposted on the left before Loch Morlich. Turn at the signs and carry straight on up the forest road through the trees for 1 mile.

The site map opposite shows the location of the Office.

