

**Press release**  
15 October 2008  
For immediate release



## **Special day promotes people with disabilities in the workplace**

Leading charities from across Cambridgeshire are hosting a special day of activities on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October to showcase the contribution that people with disabilities and mental health difficulties can bring to the workplace.

Charities in the Social Training Enterprises Group (STEnG) are holding two events on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the first being a business breakfast. Local employers are being invited to come and hear first hand about the benefits employing people with disabilities can bring, and the support available to companies unsure about how best to proceed. The wider public is then invited from 10.30am to celebrate the achievements of STEnG learners and learn of opportunities available. Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Tony Orgee, will be welcoming guests to the second event.

Des Trollip, STEnG's Chair, said "people with disabilities have an enormous amount to offer, but they can so often be marginalised because some employers are nervous about taking on staff that may have additional support needs. Our training programmes are directly linked to the needs of local employers, and our learners often come with an accredited qualification in their chosen work area, which can put them at an advantage. We want to show employers that people with disabilities can not only bring real skills to the workplace, but real commitment and enthusiasm too, and that help for both parties is on hand over the long term".

Des continues: "on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the organisations in STEnG also want to encourage people with disabilities to come and see the diverse and vibrant opportunities we have on offer which can help prepare them for employment. Our organisations can offer a mixture of training sessions, one to one advice, job planning and skills checks".

The eleven organisations which make up STEnG are: Branching Out, Burwell Community Print, Cambridge Mencap, Darwin Nursery, Hope Enterprises, FACET, Opportunities Without Limits (OWL), The Papworth Trust, The Prospects Trust, Red2Green and Rowan Humberstone.

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

- To find out more about STEnG and the opportunities on offer visit [www.steng.org.uk](http://www.steng.org.uk)
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, the business breakfast is from 7.30 to 9.15, and the wider celebration is from 10.30 to 2.30. Venue: OWL Café, Sawston Free Church, 1 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3BG
- Public wanting further information about the event can call Gill Riley on 01223 835329.
- Case studies and interviewees are available on request. Journalists can contact either Samantha Sherratt, Red2Green's Acting Chief Executive on 01223 811662 or Des Trollip, STEnG Chair on 01223 566027