



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE
GIBRALTAR

PRESS RELEASE

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St Bernadette's and Saccone & Speed support Employment Initiative

On the 27th March, Saccone & Speed invited the Honourable Samantha Sacramento, Minister for Equality and Social Services, together with the management, support workers and service users from St Bernadette's Resource Centre to a reception and lunch at the Saccone & Speed offices to mark the success of its work placement scheme. St. Bernadette's took this opportunity to show their appreciation to Saccone and Speed by presenting them with a canvas made by service users.

Both Saccone & Speed and St Bernadette's Resource Centre sought to highlight the work achieved by service users who are currently attending work placements and to discuss and emphasise the need for supported employment by local businesses and organisations.

Historically, Saccone & Speed have employed adults with learning disabilities over many years and they continue to offer their commitment and support by engaging with St Bernadette's and presently involve two service users in their business.

St Bernadette's Resource Centre is currently working on a programme to expand opportunities in the workplace and wishes to raise awareness of its Supported Employment Programme which can be tailored to meet the needs of both the individual and the participating organisation. The work placements can vary depending on the parties' needs.

Commenting on this initiative, The Honourable Samantha Sacramento, Minister for Equality and Social Services stated that Saccone & Speed had a long history of employing people with learning disabilities and, as such, are considered one of the pioneers in this field. She highlighted the importance of such an opportunity provided to adults with learning disabilities to undertake work is both positive and rewarding for the individual as well as promoting integration. She expressed her hopes that other organisations would follow the lead.

St Bernadette's Resource Centre is developing a supported employment programme with a view to arranging work placements for its services users. The Minister also noted that it was a firm commitment of this new Government to develop a programme for all who may need it in our community as well as those who attend St Bernadette's.