



Enabling Greater
Independence



Pathway to Find, Remain and Return to Work

Health and Growth Accelerator

About this programme

The William Merritt Centre is proud to be part of the NHS West Yorkshire ICB's Growth Accelerator programme, which supports individuals with long-term physical or neurological conditions to maintain their independence and mobility—key to finding, staying in, or returning to work. Essential daily mobility equipment—such as dressing aids, wheelchairs, and scooters—plays a crucial role in helping individuals achieve these goals.

With over 40 years of experience in providing independent assessments, advice, and information on daily living aids, the William Merritt Centre is ideally positioned to support individuals with disabilities or long-term conditions in accessing this programme.

Why this programme is needed?

This programme has been developed in response to the government white paper "[Get Britain Working](#)" which outlines national key strategic ambitions regarding health-related barriers to work. According to the UK Office for National Statistics, the employment rate for disabled individuals is 53.5%, significantly lower than the 81.6% employment rate for non-disabled individuals.

Research shows that 70% of disabled people would prefer to work if adequate support was provided. Mobility equipment can improve productivity by up to 30% and reduce absenteeism among employees with disabilities

Who is the return-to-work programme for?

- For people with disabilities or long-term conditions who cannot work or find working difficult due to their health
- Supporting individuals whose disabilities or long-term conditions limit their employment options
- Designed for those experiencing work-related challenges due to disability or long-term illness

How can William Merritt Centre help people begin, remain or return to work?

We provide FREE impartial advice and clinical assessments to support individuals living with a disability or long-term condition in maintaining their independence. Our specialist Occupational Therapists conduct assessments for mobility equipment, ensuring that any equipment you trial meets your specific needs and supports your independent mobility. If applicable, they will also provide a report to assist with charity funding applications.

Our advice and assessments cover:

- Travelling to and from work
- Being comfortable at work
- Getting around at work
- Getting dressed
- Getting out and about
- Accessing technology



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