

## **The RemapGlos Engineer**

### **What we do**

We help people with disabilities by designing and making things for them that are not commercially available. This might be a household aid or a sporting accessory. Usually we build things from scratch. Sometimes we adapt an existing product. We supply our design for free, but we do receive donations sometimes.

We all meet once a month to allocate new projects and discuss ongoing projects. We are Engineers, but we have a small team from the local NHS (Occupational and Physio Therapists, OT and PT) who provide the necessary medical expertise.

### **What we don't do**

We don't do decorating or gardening.

We don't provide a transport service for the client.

We don't provide emotional support.

We don't give out grants or provide financial assistance.

We don't make things that can be bought off the shelf.

### **Practical skills**

Remap Engineers usually come from the engineering/manufacturing industry and have a variety of practical skills. You would need to have some of the following skills:

Wood working

Metal working

Welding

Machining

CAD

3D printing

Electronics

Soldering

Software coding

General engineering

### **Tools & workshop**

You will need to provide your own home "workshop" space and your own tools to complete the project. You will normally agree to be assigned to a project that is generally within your capability. But other Remap Engineers are usually available to help with specific parts that need specialist skills, and we do.

## **Spare time**

Remap projects need to be carried out in a reasonably short time. Simple projects might take a couple of weeks to finish. Complex projects might take a few months to finish. You would start off with a straightforward project. A Remap project typically takes around 5-20 man hours to complete.

The Gloucestershire Remap group, with 18 Engineers, completes around 100 projects each year.

You will be expected to attend our group's monthly meetings, every second Thursday of the month, 10am-12.30pm in Gloucester, to report on your current project and possibly take on a new project.

These time commitments mean that Remap Engineers are typically (semi) retired.

## **Own transport**

Most client visits happen during normal office hours at the client's house. You are expected to have your own car to get to the client's house for the initial meeting, then to pick up the materials needed, and to deliver/install the finished article.

Projects are normally assigned to Engineers who live near the client, however the Gloucestershire group covers the whole county, so occasionally you may need to travel some distance. Remap volunteers can claim back a mileage allowance for these trips.

## **Self motivation**

Most Remap projects are carried out by one person. Your fellow Remap Engineers and OT/PTs will try and provide advice and help whenever needed, but it is up to you to drive your project to completion.

Many of our projects have a major impact on the client's well-being and may even alleviate physical pain and you need to commit to the project.

## **Problem solving ability**

Some of our clients/OTs know exactly what is needed. Sometimes they just present us with a problem and we have to solve it. So you will need good problem solving skills. Remember - we only make things when there is no off-the-shelf commercial solution.

## **Good inter-personal skills**

All of our clients are struggling with some aspect of their lives and so have asked us for help. Every client is different. Some client's disabilities make their speech difficult to understand. Many of our clients are elderly. Some of our clients are extremely disabled. Many of our clients have multiple physical and mental issues. All of this can be a bit of an eye-opener for some Engineers who are used to working with other very capable Engineers.

Remap Engineers work with our own OT/PTs and with the clients' OT/PTs, and their families. You need to be able to communicate effectively with the client or the referrer/OT/PT, and treat the client with sensitivity.

### **Finance**

Remap Engineers volunteer their time for free to make the world a better place! You will be expected to buy the necessary project materials up-front and then claim back the cost via an expenses claim form. Expenses are usually reimbursed within a few days. Most projects have a total material cost in the range £10 - £100.

### **A home computer**

Every month you will be expected to update your project's progress via our Remap website.

You don't need to be a computer wizard for our website is not that difficult, but if you really hate computers then you might struggle.

### **DBS check**

All Remap volunteers need to be Enhanced DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checked. The cost of this is paid for directly by Remap central office.

**END**