

December 2015 saw the launch of Trading Places (TP) at the SMaRT garage in Woolwich and Abbeville's Restaurant (Lambeth).

**Ronnie Wilson MBE**, FST's Chief Executive, explained "TP is about increasing our efforts to create sustainable work and employment opportunities for people unable to manage mainstream opportunities. More than 90% of the FST workforce has been excluded from mainstream opportunities because of mental health problems and other disadvantages. Commercial work provides the means to have control over our future. TP enables senior executives to work alongside our workforce as colleagues. We want senior executives to go back to their company excited at the prospect of doing something that is sustainable. By trading with us they also provide access to real work and on the job training The response has been fantastic with more than 80 people now signed up to TP."



**Ben Travis Acting CEO**  
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust



**Derek Caren CEO Richmond Fellowship**

As Bob a workforce member who moved onto a paid position with FST 18 months ago says, "The stigma around mental health is corrosive. It gets you down. FST gave me the chance to break away from welfare benefits. I still have many ups and downs but things are improving. I see light at the end of the tunnel."

"I want to thank you for inviting me to spend time with you, Bob, Owen and colleagues. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with you. I learned so much and was inspired by your organisation and people. Like L&Q, you change lives. You make the place where we live a better place." – **David Montague CEO (L&Q Housing)**



**David Montague CEO of L&Q Housing**



**Tim Guile Director of Serco Environmental Services**

"I had a great time meeting and working with the SMaRT Garage Services team. Besides refreshing my mechanic skills, I got the chance to listen and learn first hand about the personal stories of those who have benefited from the garage. The common theme is it changes lives for the better, building confidence, skills and positive routine, allowing participants to start realising their potential and go on to fulfilling employment or further training." – **Councillor Sizwe James Royal Borough of Greenwich**



**Councillor Sizwe James Royal Borough of Greenwich Council**

"Thank you Shaun for teaching me how to make a mean soufflé! Trading places has confirmed to me that work is good for people and that everybody should have the right to the benefits that work brings" – **Paul Lelliott Deputy Chief Inspector of Care Quality Commission (CQC)**



**Paul Lelliott Deputy Chief Inspector of Care Quality Commission**

"SMaRT Garage Services are a unique organisation supporting and engaging the most vulnerable group of people. I believe we can all have an impact by bringing our cars in for a service helping to expand the number employed." – **Councillor John Fahy Deputy Leader of Royal Borough Greenwich**



**Councillor John Fahy Deputy leader of Royal Borough of Greenwich**



**Patsy Fung Lead Occupational Therapist Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust**

"Fantastic experience really enjoyed meeting the team and learning to make soufflé! Brilliant idea and thank you so very much for arranging this innovative idea" - **Patsy Fung Lead Occupational Therapist Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust**