

CareTech International receive a warm welcome from Zayed Higher Organisation in Abu Dhabi

In a significant step within our ongoing partnership, senior directors from CareTech International visited Abu Dhabi to view the impressive services and educational centres provided by the Zayed Higher Organisation (ZHO) for the UAE's People of Determination.

ZHO are the government funded, social care pioneer in UAE, working to change the culture and perception of people of determination while providing them with state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate their challenges.

Artwork created by service users was exchanged by both organisations as a gift to celebrate the upcoming collaboration for the **Arts and Crafts Competition 2020**, which looks set to be a highlight of the year.



Above: Secretary General Abdulla Abdulalee Abdulla Alhumaidan presents artwork to Shokat Akbar and the CareTech contingent at a press conference to announce the joint Arts & Craft Competition 2020.

Above right: CareTech's Group Development Director, Shokat Akbar, reciprocated the gesture with a piece from our 2018 Arts and Crafts Competition winner, Lucas Sowden.

Joan Bone, CareTech Marketing and Development Director said: 'Everyone was so friendly and they were delighted to show us around their incredible facilities, including their Autism centre, which has a hydrotherapy pool, and the Agricultural centre. We witnessed eco – friendly methods of growing crops, and the enterprising nature of the people of determination, who are employed to grow and pack all of the fresh produce.

'We are looking forward to building on the success of this visit with future projects and embracing the huge scope for learning opportunities for both organisations.'

Amanda Sherlock, CareTech's Compliance and Regulatory Director, was equally impressed.

She stated: 'There is a real emphasis on giving every individual the opportunity to develop and grow their talents in a range of environments. They take a strong pathway approach, with education and vocational opportunities available in conjunction with mainstream schools and colleges, as well as some residential care where we met young adults supported into paid employment at the centre.'

The following gallery offers a more detailed insight into the three day trip, which showcases the excellent work ZHO does, and how it benefits those they care for.

Horse Therapy

The horse therapy is held within a huge arena and incorporates core strength exercises, as in the picture below where the therapist is engaging in a game of 'bat and catch' with the little boy seated on the horse. The gentleman in the wheelchair is viewing the session with his doctor, to see if he may benefit from similar treatment.



Left: A little girl takes the reins and walks her horse back at the end of the session with her therapist.



Amanda Sherlock was especially enamoured with Equine Therapy Centre, citing it as her favourite part of the visit. 'As well as the range of horses (from a very old Shetland pony who is used as sensory stimulation for some of the small children), there are beautiful and very well cared for horses used in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy sessions to support the sensory, physical and emotional therapy of the children.'

Swimming Therapy at the Autism Centre



Above: A child has swimming lessons combined with therapy in the pool to assist with core strength, mobility – and fun!

Below: Amanda Sherlock and Joan Bone are given a tour of the Hydrotherapy Centre within ZHO's main facility. One interesting feature of the pool here is the split in the middle – it divides into two parts so you are able to walk across it and use the two pools at different heights.



Agricultural Centre

This was one of the highlights of the visit: seeing the levels of sustainability deployed here and how environmentally sound and effective the crop growing system is.



The boxes of fresh produce are all grown and packaged by People of Determination, who receive a salary.



The ZHO branding showing that produce is farmed by People Of Determination is prominently displayed on all packaging.



Above: ZHO does its own recycling with this machine – the bottles are fed into it and a plastic sheet emerges once the process is finished. The sheet can then be used for a variety of other things within the centre.

The Autism Centre

Our contingent were given a tour of this facility, where the children in ZHO care are educated with a mixture of Art and Music therapy.



Above: Amanda Sherlock speaks with a boy doing a puzzle during a lesson.

Below: Inspiring artwork created by a student at the Autism Centre





On Display: A teacher at the Autism Centre shows Joan Bone the fantastic artwork created for this month's class Art theme of 'Space'.

The ethos and values of CareTech resonates well with ZHO and alongside the partnership on Arts and Crafts and we are confident that there is much to be gained from deepening our understanding of the cultures, values, commitment to best practice across our organisations and countries.



CareTech

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