Information about CBC policies and services – Work for Yourself and Apprenticeship Scheme Case Studies

The Work for Yourself programme began in 2009-2010 and has continued to be successful throughout 2010-2011 building on the previous year’s achievements. The programme seeks to assist local residents with limiting long-term health conditions/disabilities to start their own businesses and is funded through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

Between 1st April 2010 and 9th March 2011, the following was achieved across Chesterfield Borough and Bolsover District:

- 178 Contacts;
- 107 Clients having one-to-one meetings with Business Advisers;
- 24 Trading businesses, plus five more imminent starts;
- 27 Former clients reporting that they had found jobs in this year – an increase over Year One;
- Five Clients reporting that they were undertaking training;
- 76 Clients continuing to progress their business ideas;
- Signposting information about other work support provided to all clients withdrawing from the programme.

In addition, five Enterprise workshops were held for Raising Aspirations clients in June and October 2010 and four disability workshops for partner organisations received very positive feedback.

Clients build on their previous work experience or life interests when they create their business ideas. Although many may remain as sole traders, some have established registered companies – and many have the potential to grow. Trading businesses to date in Chesterfield include:

- Air conditioning service
- Antiques dealer
- Building and joinery
- Cycle repairs and sales
- Dog walking
- Events and marketing
- Gardening
- Mobile spray tanning
- Recovery and scrapping of vehicles
- Supplying clothes/goods to residents of care homes
- Teaching assistant
- Welding and fabrication

The project is client focussed, recognising that personal, financial and other circumstances all play their part in individual achievement. Our support is flexible to accommodate individual needs, ranging from providing short, straightforward and accessible business information packs, to expert and empathetic Business Adviser support. During this year we provided clients with the additional resource of a CV writing guide available in hard copy, in audio version and on-line. We also contacted former clients to check their current situation, offering additional support where needed.
A further £770k in Working Neighbourhoods Funding was allocated to projects tackling worklessness. Projects focused on tackling barriers to employment caused by mental health issues and social exclusion, access to affordable credit, advice and support around financial inclusion, helping 16 to 24 year olds find work and learn new skills, and helping those with a criminal record.

The Council's award winning apprenticeships scheme has continued to be successful throughout 2010-2011. With our partners, principally Bolsover DC, we have taken proactive steps to improve outcomes for local people. Young people, either aged 16 to 24 at risk of becoming long-term unemployed, or aged over 25 years unemployed and living in deprived communities have been given an opportunity to start a fully supported apprenticeship placement in the public sector or community and voluntary sector. The scheme has been funded through the Government’s Future Jobs Fund and Chesterfield Borough Council and Bolsover District Council Working Neighbourhoods Funding.

There are currently 20 out of 30 apprentices still on the programme. Ten have left the scheme so far and of these: five have gained employment, one has gained a place at University, two have left the scheme due to completing the full 18 months of their apprenticeships, and two have left for other reasons. The remaining 20 apprentices are expected to complete their apprenticeships between May and December 2011.