

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



Name of project: Better Work Options

Project Lead: Jackie Hall

Project Targets from bid:

- 6 people will achieve the national proficiency certificate in catering
- 3 people will move into work placements in the catering field
- 2 people will enter paid work as a result of this
- 25 people will be members of the recycling project
- a project board will be formed to use and run the project
- 15 local businesses will be signed up as partners in the project
- 2 people will move into work placements once they have learnt essential safety skills in local recycling businesses and then into paid work
- 5 Art exhibitions will be held locally showing the work of 25 artists with a learning disability
- 15 people will have sold their art work
- The art marketing group will be led by a steering group of 6 artists
- One artist will be registered as self employed and have had an individual exhibition

How the bid says the project will do this work:

The project has three parts so people with a learning disability can get training and work placements to get paid and unpaid work.

1. A nationally recognised qualification in catering.
2. A recycling project at Belgrave day service, run by service users.
3. An art marketing group exhibiting and selling artwork produced by local artists with a learning disability.

How much LDDF money the project got in 2008/9: £39,875

Name of person completing this report:

Martin Mitchener

What the project has done in April through July 2008:

Review of work to date - July 2008

1. Introduction

1.1 Better Work Options is funded by the Brighton & Hove Learning Disability Partnership Board, and works at developing services for people with learning disabilities, in the Brighton and Hove City region

1.2 Funding is for one officer, Martin Mitchener; to work with learning disability day services and other agencies to develop work related skills training and business opportunities

2. Better Work Options - key areas for development work 2008/9

- Establish a pilot scheme to deliver accredited training
- Establish a business model for a recycling scheme
- To enable artists to exhibit and sell artwork to the community

3. Accredited training

3.1. A partnership with Nourish has been developed and courses run delivering training for twenty people in aspects of Food Hygiene. This has proved to be a great success with half of the people taking the certified examination and nine passing

3.2. To progress the learning made in the Food Hygiene course it was decided to develop a Skills for Working Life catering course that would deliver a NPTC (City & Guilds) national accredited qualification at a pre NVQ level

3.3. Better Work Options and Nourish have negotiated with City College to be the registered centre and this accesses LSC funding

3.4. The course is due to start in August 2008 and will be overseen by Better Work Options. Nourish will be responsible for the educational delivery and provide the link to City College. The course will be independently verified. Staff from day services will support the candidates to achieve the qualification. Eight candidates from Belgrave, Buckingham Road, Grace Eyre and Wellington House will be involved and the aim is to have the majority of candidates passed by 31st March 2009.

3.5. This is an innovative way of delivering a course that has not been

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achieved before in Brighton and Hove City for learning-disabled people

3.6. If this course is successful it will show the City College that Better Work Options, and its partners Nourish, Brighton & Hove City Council and the Grace Eyre learning disability day services, are competent to deliver quality training

3.7 This will enable Better Work Options, with its partners, to develop further accredited NPTC (City & Guild) Skills for Working Life catering courses, and diversify into other areas of training with City College. These courses would be able to access LSC funding through the registered centre, City College

3.8 By offering progressive training opportunities candidates can develop skills and accredited training to help access work or further education. In the future it will give people who have work experience and qualifications gained through work based learning more opportunity to access the job market

3.9 A current example of the way progression, through work based learning and skills training can work, are the people at 80 Buckingham Road. After taking the Food Hygiene training course the participants provided a catering event for fifteen people and have plans to cater for further events

4. Aluminum cans recycling

4.1 There is funding for a recycling development worker for 16 hours a week. The recycling project has been given space by the Belgrave day service in Portslade and is open, all day Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday morning

4.2 Twenty service users attend on a Wednesday and Thursday and they have support from staff at day services. Referrals are being taken for Friday. The scheme is inclusive for learning disabled people with complex and multiple needs

4.3 Aluminum cans are collected from local business in the Brighton and Hove City area. This helps develop partnerships with the local community and gives a community presence to people with a learning disability. Twelve businesses are regular savers of cans and these partnerships are growing

4.4 Participants are taught the benefits of recycling sort and crush the cans and then share proceeds after the cans are sold

4.5 Better Work Options is looking for other partners in the Brighton & Hove area to develop the scope for recycling thereby giving opportunities for service users to work and develop training

4.6 Better Work Options wants to move the site to one that is more suitable

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for purpose of recycling

4.7 A forum for the recyclers to be an integral part of decision-making process is being developed

5. Artwork in the community

5.1 Twenty- one artists have shown artwork in many locations. Eight have sold work totaling £480. The artwork is marketed under the collective heading of “Our Art”. Heads of service and councilors have supported and raised the profile of the artists by buying artwork, and attending exhibitions

5.2 Exhibitions have been staged at the Jubilee library, Forager public house, and Wellington House as part of the Open House part of the Brighton festival

5.3 A group of artists from the Connaught day service have made a series of three large mosaics to display in the Forager public house

5.4 Links have been made with Creative Futures to display work alongside other artists they represent. Two exhibitions were held, at the Brighton Media Centre, and the “Tight Modern” exhibition that was part of the Brighton Festival. Work is also displayed for sale on the Creative Futures web site

5.5 Better Work Options has made links with the Brighton library service. “Our Art” from artists at Wellington House, Belgrave, Buckingham Road and Grace Eyre can be displayed at the libraries of Hove, Portslade, Hangleton, Whitehawk, Coldean and Hangleton

5.6 Artwork is on display and for sale at Community Learning Disability Service at Denmark Villas

5.7 A wall area in the canteen at Kings House is to be used for displaying “Our Art”

5.8 Better Work Options is negotiating with the 24 Hour Museum (a Brighton based organization that links and advertises museums and libraries nationally) to display and promote artwork on its website

5.9 Care Co – Ops and Grace Eyre are putting together a significant “Interreg” funding bid with French partners from the Somme region. Better Work Options has been asked to add its expertise to the bid

5.10 “Our Art” meetings are organised so the artists can be a central part of the decision-making processes

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What the project has done in August through November 2008:

1. Setting up accredited training and developing skills in Catering

- 1.1 A National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) Skills for Working Life course in catering has been accepted by City College. This will give a nationally recognised level 2 qualification
- 1.2 The course will be delivered under the guidance of Nourish and use Brighton & Hove City Council staff to support candidates
- 1.3 A contract has been issued to the Brighton & Hove City Council to this effect by City College. The course is for 8 service users, with an anticipated income of £13,000
- 1.4 Nourish, the council's business partner in this project, will have their services paid for out of this income. Estimated costs £9,000
- 1.5 Staff that support the course, and service user participants, have been identified. Initial preparation work has started in the four day services where the course will be delivered; Avondale, Belgrave, Buckingham Road and Wellington House
- 1.6 City College is awaiting final approval from the Learning Skills Council. City College do not anticipate any problems with this
- 1.7 The course has been delayed due to recent managerial changes at City College. These problems have been resolved and there is now a permanent contact at City College
- 1.8 The Food Hygiene Certificate training delivered by Nourish, in which 20 people participated, with 11 achieving a Food Hygiene certificate, has been built upon
- 1.9 A group of up to 8 service users called "Feast" has been created at Buckingham Road. "Feast", supported by staff, have supplied food to 4 catering events and have further bookings arranged. Income is re-invested into improving catering facilities for the participants
- 1.10 One of the Food Hygiene participants has, with the support of the volunteer placement scheme, and staff from Buckingham Road, found a work placement at Starbucks

2. Aluminium can recycling

- 2.1 The recycling continues to operate 16 hours a week. It is open Wednesday and Thursday all day, and half day on Friday morning

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- 2.2 22 service users participate in the re-cycling, including people with complex and multiple needs
- 2.3 Cans are collected from various businesses across Brighton & Hove city. The cans are washed, sorted and crushed. The aluminium cans are then sold for scrap value
- 2.4 15 business partners have been developed as points of collection. This has raised the profile of adults with learning disabilities within the city
- 2.5 Better Work Options have pursued many avenues within the council and with local waste management organisations to identify an alternative site for the re-cycling operation
- 2.6 Better Work Options are working with the estates department of the council to identify suitable premises. Leasing costs are being investigated
- 2.7 Participants have formed service user groups in which people who work on the project are able to discuss how profits can be shared

3 Artwork in the community collectively known as “Our Art”

- 3.1 “Our art” have continued to hold regular meeting of artists with learning disabilities to discuss projects, costs and exhibitions. Up to 10 artists have attended these meetings with staff support
- 3.2 “Our Art” has staged recent exhibitions at Borders coffee shop in Churchill Square, Emmaus, Kings House and Hangleton library
- 3.3 Hangleton library showcased an exhibition by one artist
- 3.4 Various artists exhibited work at the other venues. In total over 25 artists have displayed work since the inception of the project and £550 artwork sold. The “Our Art” meetings of artists decide how the monies earned are used
- 3.5 The partnership links with Creative Futures have enabled “Our Art” to be displayed alongside other marginalised artists at exhibitions in Brighton and Chichester
- 3.6 Better Work Options have contributed to an Interreg bid for EEC funding. This is a joint bid between Care Co-Ops and a French partner, part of which will give funding for a 3 year art project. The bid will be submitted in January 2009 for decision. If successful this will enable funding for a full time project worker to liaise with artists with a

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learning disability and have funding to produce and show artwork in exhibitions

- 3.7 Better Work Options have developed contacts with the Culture department of Brighton and Hove City Council. This is to give wider coverage of "Our Art" and link with other art organisations
- 3.8 As a result of this policy there has been a meeting with Culture, Better Work Options and Pallant House in Chichester (www.pallant.org.uk) to explore ways of exhibiting artists' work
- 3.9 The leader of the council Cllr Mary Mears has commissioned two "Our Art" artists to provide artwork for her official Christmas cards

What the project has done in December 2008 through March 2009:

Better Work Options - Final report April 2009

1. Introduction

1.1 Better Work Options was funded by the Brighton and Hove Learning Disability Partnership Board to develop work opportunities, for people with learning disabilities, within Brighton and Hove City

1.2 Funding was for one officer, Martin Mitchener, to work with learning disability day services, and other agencies, to develop work related skills training and business opportunities. Funding was for the financial year 2008/9

2. Better Work Options - aims and objectives, 2008/09

- Establish a pilot scheme to deliver accredited training in catering
- Establish a business model for a recycling scheme
- Enable artists to exhibit, and sell, artwork to the community

3. Accredited training

3.1. A partnership with James Aldcroft from Nourish (a branch of Care Co-ops) was formed, and courses run, delivering Food Hygiene training for twenty people. This proved to be a great success with half of the people taking a certified examination and nine passing

3.2. To progress the learning made in the Food Hygiene course, it was decided to develop a Skills for Working Life catering course, that would deliver a National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC - City & Guilds) accredited qualification at a pre NVQ level

3.3. Better Work Options and Nourish negotiated with City College to be the registered centre and access Learning Skills Council (LSC) funding

3.4. The course was due to start in August 2008. Due to management and staff restructuring within the City College there were delays in registering the course. These issues proved difficult to resolve as there were delays appointing people to posts in the college. This was resolved at the end of 2008. Nourish is responsible for the educational delivery, and to provide the main working link with City College. The course will be independently verified. Staff from day services, support the candidates to achieve the qualification. Delivery is within a practical working catering environment.

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Eight candidates from Belgrave, Buckingham Road, Grace Eyre and Wellington House have been recruited. Due to the late registration of the course the aim of having the majority of candidates passed by 31st March 2009 became unrealistic. Summer 2009 is the revised date for completion by the first candidates

3.5. The accredited training is an innovative way of delivering a course that has not been achieved before in Brighton and Hove City for learning disabled people. Work based learning where candidates get hands on experience is viewed as a practical way for learning disabled people to learn new skills and gain qualifications

3.6. If this course is successful it will show the City College that Better Work Options (Brighton & Hove City Council) and its partners Nourish, and the Grace Eyre learning disability day services, are competent to deliver professional training that is nationally recognised

3.7 This will enable Brighton & Hove City Council with its partners, to develop further accredited NPTC (City & Guild) Skills for Working Life catering courses, and diversify into other areas of training with City College. These courses would be able to access LSC funding through the registered centre, City College

3.8 By offering progressive training opportunities candidates can develop skills and accredited training to help access work, or further education. In the future it will give people who have work experience and qualifications gained through work based learning more opportunity to access the job market

3.9 A current example of the way progression, through work based learning and skills training can progress, are the people at 80 Buckingham Road. After taking the Food Hygiene training course the participants have provided regular paid catering events

3.10 To enable the work to develop management support will need to be given to Nourish, and a dialogue developed with City College, to ensure the course aims are met within timescales to access LSC funding. This has an estimated income of £13,000 payable to the council for the first course, from this Nourish's fees will need to be paid, these are estimated at £9,000

3.11 LSC funding is changing so partnership working with City College is essential to identify future funding. This needs to be a management function

3.12 Management need to identify ongoing support needs for staff to implement the accredited training

4. Aluminum cans recycling

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4.1 Funding was identified within existing day service budgets to pay a recycling development worker for 16 hours a week. The recycling project was given space by the Belgrave day service in Portslade and is open Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday morning

4.2 Twenty service users use the service and are supported by day service staff. The scheme is inclusive for learning disabled people with complex and multiple needs

4.3 Aluminum cans are collected from local business in the Brighton and Hove City area. This helps develop partnerships with the local community and gives a community presence to people with a learning disability. Fifteen businesses are regular savers of cans and these partnerships are growing

4.4 Participants are taught the benefits of recycling, sort and crush the cans, and then share proceeds after the cans are sold

4.5 Better Work Options looked to move the site to one that is more suitable for purposes of recycling. Talks were held with City Clean and the Environment department but were unable to identify a suitable site, or safe working workplace within the current council setup, or with an outside partner

4.6 Research shows the costs of funding a new site to be a minimum rent of £20,000 per annum. The profits from the can recycling will not pay for this level of cost

4.7 A forum for the recyclers to be an integral part of decision-making process has being developed and implemented

4.8 In November it became non-viable to work in the garage at Belgrave due to lack of heating. The project worker based the re-cycling in the day services and was able to operate as normal. This may be a way forward for the future if additional funding is not identified to fund a dedicated site, or install heating in the Belgrave garage

4.9 The funding for the project worker, currently 16 hours a week, needs to be made permanent to continue the scheme and develop into other areas of recycling

4.10 The Recycling scheme would not have developed as well as it has without the dedication and ingenuity of the recycling development worker Rae Loughman

4.11 A Recycling leaflet was produced explaining the project

5. Artwork in the community

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5.1 Twenty- one artists have shown artwork in many Brighton & Hove locations. The artwork is marketed under the collective heading of “Our Art”. Heads of service and councilors have supported and raised the profile of the artists by buying artwork, and attending exhibitions. Many artists have sold their work to the public and each day service has established a way for the artists to be rewarded for sales

5.2 Exhibitions have been staged at the Jubilee library, Forager public house, and Wellington House as part of the Open House part of the Brighton festivals

5.3 A group of artists from the Connaught day service have made a series of three large mosaics to display in the Forager public house. The opening ceremony was covered by the media, Meridian TV, Evening Argus, and City News

5.4 Links have been made with Creative Futures to display work alongside other artists they represent. Two exhibitions were held, at the Brighton Media Centre, and the “Tight Modern” exhibition that was part of the Brighton Festival. Work is also displayed for sale on the Creative Futures web site

5.5 Better Work Options has made links with the Brighton library service. “Our Art” from artists at Wellington House, Belgrave, Buckingham Road and Grace Eyre can be displayed at the libraries of Hove, Portslade, Hangleton, Whitehawk, Coldean and Hangleton

5.6 Artwork is on display and for sale at Community Learning Disability Service at Denmark Villas

5.7 A wall area in the canteen at Kings House is to be used for displaying “Our Art”

5.8 Care Co – Ops and Grace Eyre are putting together an “Interreg” funding bid with French partners from the Somme region. Better Work Options has been asked to add its expertise to the bid. Several meetings have been held and proposals for Brighton & Hove City Council to be a key part of this initiative have been made. A 2.5 year bid for “Interreg” funding has been made

5.9 “Our Art” meetings are organised so the artists can be a central part of the decision-making processes

5.10 Links have been made between Better Work Options, and the Culture department of Brighton & Hove City Council, to develop better working partnerships within the council, and with outside art organisations such as

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Pallant House

5.11 An “Our Art” leaflet was produced explaining the project

6. Summary

- **Establish a pilot scheme to deliver accredited training in Catering**

This has been achieved, but was delayed due to management restructuring at City College

The day service at 80 Buckingham Road have developed catering as a business and have put on a number of paid events run by learning disabled people supported by staff. This is a model for future development

The partnership with Nourish and City College show the potential for joint working with outside agencies to provide nationally recognised professional training, and as a potential source of income

A successful course will prove to City College and LSC, that Brighton & Hove and Nourish, are competent educational providers and therefore able to deliver future training, in catering and other areas

- **Establish a business model for a recycling scheme**

The small profits from can recycling do not make this viable to support a business with rent overheads. Attempts to link with other recyclers in the area proved to be unworkable as there were issues over safety, or not enough common areas that could be beneficial to both parties

Service users have benefited from exposure to education on recycling and have promoted presence in the community through partnership working with local business

- **Enable artists to exhibit and sell artwork to the community**

Eleven exhibitions were held in various settings around Brighton and Hove City and artwork sold. Partnerships have been developed with other art organisations