

Appendix D

Proposed activity under the People and Skills theme

Building Futures

The Building Futures programme consists of a partnership of organisations:

- a. Adviza – the lead and accountable body
- b. Oasis Partnership
- c. Bucks Mind
- d. Healthy Living Centre (Aylesbury)

It is understood that Healthy Living Centre and Bucks Mind will not be continuing with the programme past March 2023, regardless of continuation of funding.

Building Futures is part of “Building Better Opportunities”, a national programme of ESF/National Lottery funded employment support projects to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Adviza are the lead partner providing project managers, co-ordinators and keyworkers as well as providing funding for keyworkers at Oasis, Bucks Mind and Healthy Living Centre.

Purpose and offering

The two delivery strands are intensive support and embedded support.

Intensive Support: gives each client an allocated keyworker who guides and inspire them to reach their employment goals. Journeys last on average between 3 and 6 months with two-hour appointments scheduled at a minimum of once a fortnight. Support is delivered at a variety of community and/or provider venues where the client feels comfortable.

The keyworker and the client track progress through ongoing action plans. Together, steps are agreed which support the client to gain the knowledge and skills they need to enter employment. The focus is on empowering the client to make the right decisions whilst avoiding future reliance on their keyworker or other services.

Embedded support is in addition to 1-2-1 support. Working with other organisations, Building Futures creates group activities that embed employability skills into an activity that attracts those individuals who would not normally engage with a standard employability programme. Examples include:

- **Employment FM:** A ten session course that we deliver in collaboration with Wycombe FM. This provides the clients with the skills required to take over an afternoon radio show. Responses to this course has been very positive and the output from the radio show have even been used as articles by a blind magazine.

- Film Workshop: A recent project by jobseekers to create a video which would be used as part of a local heroes' exhibition at Bucks Discovery Museum. Like Employment FM this attracted hard to reach clients and provided an excellent model for inspiration and unveiling hidden transferable skills.

Results to date

Building Futures began delivery in 2017 and has provided over 1100 clients in the Bucks LEP area with intensive employability support. It has specifically targeted people from hard-to-reach groups including those aged over 55, people with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities. Although referrals should be people who are unemployed or economically inactive for more than 6 months, it accepts referrals from anyone facing barriers to employment who is not in work.

The Building Futures projects give a voice to individuals who may feel estranged from their local community. This engagement helps in making the mind-set change they need to return to the labour market. Testimonials of client feedback can be heard here <https://youtu.be/-osBLw1yW9g>

Community cohesion

Building Futures is very much a community project. In addition to direct partners Oasis, Bucks Mind and The Healthy Living Centre, there have been over thirty referral partners including agencies such as YOS, Family Support, JCP, NEET solution group, etc. Once every 6 weeks they hold a keyworker workshop bringing together workers from the partnership group to share best practise and upskill. Through this activity of bringing partners together, Building Futures is enhancing the level of support that Bucks services provide to clients.