



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Action For Blind People

Contact in organisation  
Clive Brown

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[Clive.brown@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:Clive.brown@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)  
07701 396166

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

How many employees do you have?

FT 500                  PT 100                  Volunteers 300

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Action for Blind People is a national charity with local reach, providing help and support to blind and partially sighted people of all ages. We have a good record of delivering high quality, innovative services (including specialist employment services) for visually impaired people funded by statutory and voluntary sector sources. We support around 30,000 visually impaired people every year, always placing their needs at the heart of everything we do. We help people with many aspects of their lives enabling them to find the right services and products they need to live independently, including support to find employment. We are part of the RNIB group of charities and work closely with many local voluntary societies for blind people to provide unique partnerships of complementary strengths and expertise to help the ever increasing number of people with sight loss.

We have an office in Salisbury from where our Operations team deliver services across the County on an outreach basis.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We will work with visually impaired people who are amongst the furthest from the labour market. Our expert employment co-ordinators will work with customers individually case managing their journey towards employment through delivering a holistic, personalised programme comprising of emotional support, personal rehabilitation, financial inclusion (including benefits and debt advice), digital inclusion, modular pre-employment related activities, volunteering and work experience placements, work trials and working interviews.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Visually Impaired people are one of the most disadvantaged groups in the labour market with visually impaired people of working age 200% more likely not to be in employment than sighted people. As well as being visually impaired many of our client group will be aged 50 plus, female, economically inactive and have secondary health barriers which mean they have not engaged in employment related activity for some years. The people we support represent a key target group for BBO.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Happy to be involved if I can add value.



Assessing Needs from  
The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Active Plus

Contact in organisation

Brian Tregunna

Contact Details Telephone / email

07856571163 or 01225 811707 brian@activeplus.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

CIC

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 8 PT 16 Volunteers 30

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Active Plus is an award winning Community Interest Company that utilises the skills of wounded, injured and sick (WIS) military veterans to provide a range of personal development, education and wellbeing programmes for people in need.

We seek to achieve the dual benefits of rehabilitation and personal development for our employees and volunteers whilst also improving employability, health and wellbeing within local communities.

Our programmes include a range of subjects depending on client needs, such as planning, problem solving, communication, teamwork, life coaching, confidence building, motivation, interview skills and personal action planning.

Client groups for such development programmes include:

- people with health and wellbeing needs due to mental health conditions,
- the unemployed,
- young people
- isolated older people.

The main outcomes for clients include:

- improved confidence and self esteem, a strong sense of purpose.
- improved communication, planning, problem solving and team-working skills
- employment, self-employment, volunteering, training

Most clients who complete our programmes leave with a personal action plan to move their lives forward.

We are currently working in Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Active Plus provides a range of very successful courses for the unemployed, including those who are long term unemployed and have a range of health problems or disabilities. We also provide Wellbeing courses for people with anxiety and depression, as well as other challenges like alcohol & drug dependency, socially isolated, poor communication skills, victims of crime etc.

Active Plus places great emphasis on people's individual personal needs. We build our programmes around practical and interactive exercises that encompass planning, problem solving, communication and team-working skills; using them to facilitate engagement, build self-confidence and motivate people to achieve their full potential.

We provide personal coaching based upon the GROW model principles and also deliver our own 7 Steps to Success coaching programme that explains various important life-skills, subsequently enabling clients to change and improve their lives.

Our main commissioning clients include Jobcentre Plus, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and GP Practices.

During the past year we have received the following awards:

- South West Business of the Year (not for profit category) 2014
- Runner-up national Military & Civilian Health Partnership awards 2014

Runner-up national Mental Health First Aid awards 2014

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Active Plus has a lot of experience of working with people who are a long way from employment and has achieved a lot of success, resulting in recent visits and compliments from Iain Duncan Smith (Secretary of State for Work and Pensions) and Vince Cable (Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills) as well as meeting with Anna Soubry, Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans. We have considerable evidence of our proven track record.

As our courses are flexible and 'bespoke' to meet clients needs, they are therefore suitable to help everyone regardless of their background and circumstances.

Evidence confirms that the biggest barriers to employment are confidence, self esteem, motivation and a lack of purpose, all matters that are addressed on Active Plus courses with very strong outcomes.

We are also aware that the 2 most important attributes that employers seek from potential employees are – a positive attitude and a strong work ethic; both important life skills that we help clients to develop on our courses.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes we would be pleased to be a member of the Strategy Group and to contribute to the application.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

The Any Body Can Cook Community Interest Company

Contact in organisation

Catherine Maxwell or Sarah Hopkins

Contact Details Telephone / email

0788 161 1691 07545696551

enquiries@anybodycancook.co.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / **CIC** / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have? 1 full time 2 sub-contractors currently

Volunteers on a project by project basis

FT PT

Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

A multi-award winning not-for profit initiative teaching basic cookery skills to hard to reach/vulnerable groups in partnership with other public/private sector and charitable organisations across Wiltshire, Swindon and Somerset.

The aim is to develop a passion for cooking simple, economic and nutritious meals from base ingredients, demonstrating practical ways to save money when shopping and cooking.

There are opportunities for accredited cooking and food safety courses as well.

We have over the past 6 years worked with over 12,500 individuals with more than half of these attending six week courses.

The project was used as an example of implementation on the NICE behaviour change guidance PH49.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Working in partnership with existing and new organisations to teach cooking to improve health and well-being and as a potential skill that could be further developed to gain employment.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The project would work with those in greatest need to improve health well-being, self confidence and employability.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes please



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
ASDAN

Contact in organisation  
Cathy Marsden

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[cathymarsden@asdanteam.org.uk](mailto:cathymarsden@asdanteam.org.uk)  
0783251180

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC / Charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 51 PT Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

As an organisation we provide accredited programmes and qualifications for developing skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life.

We work nationally (and internationally) but the headquarters are based in Bristol. I have direct responsibility for the Swindon and Wiltshire regions.

Our target client group are mainly 14+ learners but we work with organisations rather than directly with the learners.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Our offer could include any or all of the following:

Access to our existing qualifications and programmes

Customised accreditation – a bespoke package accrediting existing courses and projects

Personalised accreditation – accrediting very small steps of achievement and progress towards individualised goals.

Training to deliver the courses

Ongoing support and advice

Pre-moderation checks

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Providing accreditation recognises and rewards achievement and is motivational.  
It will also help provide evidence for outcomes and accountability.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

If it were deemed appropriate then I would willingly be a member of a Strategy Group.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
British Red Cross

Contact in organisation  
Lisa Stafford

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[lstafford@redcross.org.uk](mailto:lstafford@redcross.org.uk), 01452 726675

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 1000+ PT 1000+ Volunteers 1000+

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We provide 'Everyday First Aid' training sessions for 'at risk groups of adults. Sessions usually last up to 2 hours, and cover all the essentials people need to feel confident and competent to act in a first aid emergency.

We train volunteers, carers, families and those in 'at risk' groups including drug/alcohol users, homeless, people in deprived areas/households, refugees/asylum seekers, domestic violence, dementia, older people, mental health issues.

We provide the session across Wiltshire.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would provide the Everyday first Aid sessions to groups of up to 20 people. The sessions provide life-saving skills, but are also a positive learning experience, as they are run in an informal, interactive way, so we have found that individuals who were not engaging with learning/employment opportunities, have, following this training, become open to the idea of taking on other training opportunities, and used it to motivate them to seek and plan employment opportunities.



Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

We would provide the sessions to adults (18+) who are economically inactive and unemployed. The sessions are one-off, covering all people need to know and participants are given a workbook and a certificate after the training. As a result of this positive, confidence-building learning opportunity, it would encourage participants to move into other education or training opportunities, and also to encourage them to look into employment opportunities. We have a case study of this being successful in the past - details are below from a recent course for a mixed group of young teenage parents, as reported by the trainer:

When the boys walked in, they had an air of hostility and complete indifference. One guy in particular (I'll call him Pete) gave off all the signals of "I don't want to be here". As the session went on Pete became more and more animated, eventually answering questions, questioning answers and making connections between topics.

Recently I bumped into the course organiser and she told me about Pete's latest adventures.

She said "Since the course he has now become fully engaged as a service user, which is a really tough call for a young teenage dad in a completely new area. His confidence and self esteem have blossomed, to the point that he's now even seeking advice about getting into college, learning more and doing more training.

She also said "that course inspired him to seek out help about his own issues too, and when he got his certificate it made him realise he really can do things like this, now he wants to achieve even more!"

And just to remind us all about the importance of the subject too! Pete and his teenage mum partner had a medical emergency with the baby, but they held themselves together, stayed calm, remembered the vital bits of the training and did all the right things ..... and the Baby is just fine.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes, I would be willing to be a member of the Strategy Group working on an application



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Campbell Page UK Limited

Contact in organisation

Kerry Hart – Head of Operations

Contact Details Telephone / email

01380 729375

[Kerry.hart@campbellpage.co.uk](mailto:Kerry.hart@campbellpage.co.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity - Non for Profit

How many employees do you have?

FT 65          PT 5          Volunteers 4

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Campbell Page UK Limited is a skills and welfare-to-work training provider. As a charity, support over **9,000** customers per year in the UK and over **100,000** in Australia, working directly with more than **2,000** employers across the South West of England. Through our delivery divisions, we provide a high quality portfolio of training services that deliver across the UK and Australia's employability and skills agendas – linking the services required to help people identify job goals and enter into the workplace with the skills training needed to promote lifelong learning and sustainable employment.

### UK Main Activities:

Today we deliver a range of employment and skills provision. We deliver a wide portfolio of contracts on behalf of DWP Prime Providers which includes;

- The Work Programme as subcontractor to Learndirect and RehabJobFit
- CWP as subcontractor to RehabJobFit
- Job Centre Plus Support Contract (JCPSC) as subcontractor to Pinnacle People
- DWP ESF Support for Disadvantaged Families subcontract to Twin

We deliver a further range on contracts on behalf of the SFA, Local Authorities, Prime Skills Providers and other funding bodies. This includes;

- Next Steps (IAG) as subcontractor to Adviza (NB: all delivery staff are level 3 qualified)
- Direct Delivery of NVQ/Apprenticeships

- Specialist provision for young people (Devon County council) and
- Subcontract delivery of Workforce Development (on behalf of SERCO)

***Some of our key strengths include:***

- 30 years' experience in supporting the disadvantaged
- A diverse portfolio of specialist support services including; Youth Centres & Refuges, Housing Projects, Drug & Alcohol Initiatives, Rehabilitation Services, Family Intervention, and services for Indigenous Australians
- Robust, established infrastructure, policies & processes
- Track record in planned, successful expansions into new markets
- Sound contract management experience including brokerage arrangements
- Commitment to strategic management practices that achieve results
- Experienced and committed UK team possessing considerable industry knowledge

***The Client Groups we work with are as follows but not exhaustive:***

- 18-24
- 50+
- 25+
- JSA Claimants
- ESA Claimants
- BMAE Groups
- Lone Parents
- Ex-Offenders
- Individuals with Disabilities and/or Learning Disabilities
- Individuals with Mental Health Issues
- Carers
- NEETs
- Young People
- Whole Family Units
- People with Low Level Skills
- Professionals / Executives and
- Ex-Military Personnel

***Our locations***

40 Eastover, Bridgewater, TA6 5AR

45 New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1DT

Wicker Court, Church Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8DW

Unit 18 Glenmore Business Park, Telford Road, Churchfields Ind Est, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7GL

Unit 2, Avon Reach, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 1EE

5 Temple Chamber, Temple Street, Swindon SN1 1SQ

The Old Police Station, Beeches Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4BJ

Kings Gate House, Church Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4AU

The Ridgwood Centre, 244 Station Road, Yate BS37 4AF

49 North Hill, Plymouth PL4 8HB

Lloyds Bank Chambers, 32 Fore Street, Taunton TA1 1HP

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

To address the challenges faced by local people and their communities we propose our project would deliver support for those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market by

addressing low level skills, supporting whole family units (including mature workers), addressing the needs of young people (supporting sustainment) and ensuring local people have the skills required by local employers (meeting the needs of employers).

Furthermore, our project will:

Promote social inclusion - through sustainable employability (by working in partnership with employers and other stakeholders)

We can support people who are disadvantaged to achieve a more independent and rewarding life. Our services would be aimed to support those who want to find employment and ways to become more independent and confident.

Our extensive experience gives us an exceptional understanding of the issues faced by local people in Swindon and Wiltshire and our approaches will appropriately address individual needs and deliver long-term results that generate genuine social and financial benefits.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our project and activities will focus on the most entrenched needs, which means designing and delivering interventions for beneficiaries who are excluded from services, accessing the wrong type of services, or are rotating through multiple services. As well as individuals who constantly revolve around the system, we want to reach to those who are furthest away from the systems they require to support a sustainable life.

**Long-term solutions:** Our project will address the challenges of service re-design so that changes will last and give a sustainable improvement to people's lives. This means bringing together partners with ambition and who have exemplar continuous improvement processes.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
CARER SUPPORT WILTSHIRE

Contact in organisation  
HELEN PEARSON

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01380 871690 OR 07435 972977

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 17      PT 29      Volunteers 90

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Carer Support Wiltshire provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers aged 16-80+ across Wiltshire. Our services include: one-to-one support by telephone or face-to-face; structured support groups; training; carers' cafés; outings and therapeutic breaks.

9,400 carers are currently registered with us.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Carer Support Wiltshire aims to develop a work skills programme open to all carers which would specifically address work place skills and training. Key beneficiaries would be young adult carers who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET and carers returning to work after a period of absence due to their caring role. Our aim is to move these target groups towards employability and employment.

The project would comprise an initial one-to-one consultation to determine specific needs, existing skills and career aspirations. Based on the outcomes of this meeting, a training plan would be drawn up enabling the carer to attend training courses and placements tailored to their needs and designed to improve their employability and resilience in the workplace. Carer Support Wiltshire would build on existing partnerships to provide a comprehensive range of training courses.

We are currently in the initial phase of creating a commercial service called Working for Carers aimed at encouraging businesses to recognise and support carers in their employment. The relationships we build with local businesses through this scheme will help us identify employers who might offer training schemes, short placements and apprenticeships, which will be beneficial

to this BBO project.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

This project aims to help carers, whose caring role puts them at a disadvantage in terms of education, training and employment/employability, to overcome the barriers they face and gain the skills and confidence they need to enter the employment market. We believe these aims match those of the Building Better Opportunities programme.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
C-Change Empowerment

Contact in organisation

Fidelma Meehan

Contact Details Telephone / email

07970868364 fidelma@cchange-empowerment.co.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state Company Limited by Guarantee

How many employees do you have?

FT 1 PT 1 Volunteers 3

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

The innovative approach to transformation taken by C-Change is that it inspires a change in attitudes. Our programmes offer a common sense approach to transformation, exploring which attitudes are beneficial to people and which are harmful. When people experience the benefits of behaviour inspired by positive attitudes, they become inspired and more motivated to personally commit to applying these in their lives. We refer to this transformation in attitude as “movement from Consumer to Contributor”, where consumer embodies negative and anti-social behaviours, whereas Contributor embodies the behaviours of people who want to make a difference not just in their own lives but the lives of others. This work is leading to profound change within individuals, schools and the community.

For the past 12 years, the C-Change team has designed and delivered programmes aimed at improving educational and behavioural attainment, to children in 20 Swindon schools. This has been achieved through development of course materials and resources, piloting and facilitating these programmes directly with hundreds of children in small groups, and training over 120 teachers and Teaching Assistants to facilitate sessions for children.

Our target groups are children, young people and families from disadvantaged backgrounds and we work with them in schools and within organisations such as the Swindon Foyer. In our experience with people who are NEETS, the problems they face can often begin with harmful attitudes. Apathy, negativity, lack of belief in themselves are some of the attitudes that are robbing these young people of fulfilling their potential, keeping them locked in a cycle of passivity and in the self defeating belief that they have nothing to contribute to society, or that society has no respect or value for them. The work of C-Change is to help them to develop more positive attitudes.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

**C-Change could run our tried and tested empowerment courses for groups of NEETS in Swindon and across Wiltshire, which can be offered as bite size courses with groups of 10 or 15 young people to help build their confidence and equip them for employment, work or volunteering. When they have successfully completed a course, we will link them up with organisations and community groups, where they can begin to build confidence through volunteering activities.**

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The programme offered by C-Change will help people furthest from the work place to develop personal qualities and attitudes that will equip them to enter work or education.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No.





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Community First

Contact in organisation  
Lynn Gibson

Contact Details Telephone / email

Unit C2,  
Beacon Business Centre,  
Hopton Park, Devizes,  
SN10 2EY

Telephone 01380 732811  
lgibson@communityfirst.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

Charity

How many employees do you have?

FT 35          PT 15          Volunteers 30

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We currently manage Leader programme Plain Action and Vale Action in partnership with Wiltshire Council and are well placed to lead a local bid

We have been committed to skills and learning development for many years and currently run a Study Programme for young people 16 to 19 years who are furthest removed from the labour market including a BTEC Award in Vocational Studies and Functional Skills Maths and English. We offer wrap around support and confidence building through key work and a range of developmental programmes. We are a customised ASDAN centre, a vInspired awards approved provider, Sports Leaders UK centre and a Pearson's approved Edexcel centre for Functional skills Maths, English, ICT and BTEC's in Employability.

We also run a young carers service which supports young carers at risk of NEET or who are already NEET. This includes individual mentoring IAG, advocacy, and a range of leadership and accredited courses.

We also run the Community transport programme, supporting local groups to run transport schemes and manage vehicles to improve access across the county. We also support the LINK

programmes, "Good Neighbour" volunteer schemes offering transport solutions in local communities.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We want to be a lead partner and elements of delivery including support for disengaged young people

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities Reaching those farthest from the labour market

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Create Studios Digital Media

Contact in organisation

Shahina Johnson

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[Shahina@createstudios.org.uk](mailto:Shahina@createstudios.org.uk) 01793 486108

What type of organisation are you?

CIC

How many employees do you have?

FT 2 PT 1 Volunteers 3 Other: 10 freelance crew/mentors as required

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

### What we do

Create Studios provides transformational opportunities for individuals and communities, using digital arts as a tool for education, skills development and connection with those in danger of social exclusion or isolation. We cover film, sound, photography, web, app and gaming production.

### How we do it

Create Studios is a social enterprise based in Swindon that draws on the skills and experience of a wide range of sector professionals who share a commitment to involving individuals and communities in high quality digital production experiences, and to investing in talented young people enabling them to develop their skills and make choices about their future. We have a 30 year track record of working in formal and informal education.

We deliver these priorities through 3 strands: Engagement, Skills Development, Professional Commissions.

See our 2 minute showreel on our homepage here: [www.createstudios.org.uk](http://www.createstudios.org.uk)

The BBO opportunity would sit under our engagement strand, and we have a strong track record of using media with Pre-NEET and NEET young people to build skills in digital media and more broadly in literacy, teamworking and communication and planning skills to help people be employment ready.

More broadly we work in partnership with key policy makers, the business community, education providers and funders to address social issues, support wellbeing and celebrate communities. Our target age range is young people 14- 25 but we work with younger children and older adults on request.

Recent relevant partner client groups include:

Catch 22 – young people 16+ who are out of school due to vulnerability issues

Oakfield project: young people 16+ excluded from formal education

Swindon MIND – young people with mental health referrals

DASH – young women's group with Aspergers' syndrome

Health and wellbeing project using music with YP in danger of rural isolation – in partnership with Wilts CC

Accreditation: We deliver Arts Award accreditation (run by Arts Council England) which runs across 5 levels and acknowledges work involving arts and cultural activity. We would anticipate delivering to Bronze or Silver level with the BBO target clients.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would propose offer a package of media production which could be tailored according to specific needs of a group.

The core package would be:

8 weekly sessions x 2-3 hours

Up to 12 individuals lead by 2 experienced media professionals who have expertise with hard to reach young people through our engagement strands.

Working at either Create Studios or across Swindon and Wilts in community or education settings (possible because of our mobile studio resource; the Createmobile)

Working as a team or in small groups on film/music or sound/animation/ app design/ photography

Working towards an Arts Award accreditation

Informal sharing or celebratory event to share the productions.

Signposting further opportunities (our own talent development strand or partner organisations within BBO and beyond).

We would cost project manage the delivery team and provide all equipment and materials required for a ballpark fee of £6K

We could deliver this model multiple times over multiple venues in the lifetime of the BBO project.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our established model addresses

- Issues of motivation and disengagement; media production is attractive to many especially young people
- Issues of lack of confidence with IT – people are introduced to working with computers and mobile devices without realising it because they are involved with a creative project
- We are a mobile team, so issues of access are met
- We are a team used to working with those with physical and learning disabilities
- We build core employability skills – literacy, communication, planning, IT skills
- We build specific media skills (film, animation, web, apps) which is a growing employment sector
- We have positive established relationships for follow on work experience/mentoring opportunities
- We have an accreditation which we can integrate naturally into the programme of delivery

- We are linked to sub-regional and regional partnerships to signpost other opportunities for future development

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

- Not appropriate as our Director is a member of the LEP Board



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
CRI STARS (Swindon Treatment And Recovery Service)

Contact in organisation  
Maz Fitzwilliams

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07786695221 – Mob 01793 401720  
Maz.fitzwilliams@cri.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 23 PT 1 13 Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We are a substance misuse treatment agency. We provide harm minimisation, support, advice and prescribing services for people with substance misuse issues including heroin and other illicit drugs, cannabis, alcohol, legal highs and over the counter medications.

We are based at Sanford Street in the town centre and cover the whole of Swindon Borough.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Possibility of one or more paid trainee posts that would be offered to a person who is (a) out of treatment (b) in recovery and (c) is currently in the role of peer mentor and (d) who would like to continue working in the field.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our client group often find it difficult to integrate into society once out of treatment. They have low confidence and generally very little experience of the work place. They can also have criminal records which are often off putting for potential employers. At the moment they can volunteer as peer mentors which has been hugely successful and generally enhances their recovery. However, they are limited to the roles they can do/ take on. This can make it difficult for them to successfully apply for a recovery worker post when it arises.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
The Dairy School

Contact in organisation  
Laura Jones

Contact Details Telephone / email  
Laura.a.jones@sky.com

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity** / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state Have submitted registration details to the CC

How many employees do you have?

FT 1          PT          Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We are a new charity set up to provide educational programmes for young people who are at risk or social or rural isolation. Our centre is based on a Dairy farm just outside Calne, North Wiltshire. We use animals, (farm and pet), horticulture and the countryside to engage learners. We specialise in working with young people who have high levels of anxiety due bullying, bereavement or poor educational attainment due to learning difficulties. Our target client groups come from the Local Authority and schools in North and Central Wiltshire. We are a highly specialised service focussing on giving therapeutic support to small groups of young people and our programmes are not purely around the acquisition of land based qualifications but also aim to develop resiliency and self awareness. We have over 20 years experience of working with young people from Wiltshire, Swindon and Berkshire who have been at risk of social exclusion and have had particular success in engaging students who were formally school refusers.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

The project would aim to develop social skills and resiliency in young people who have or think they may have a desire to work in a land based industry. The initial aim of the project would be to foster a sense of belonging and membership of the group and to work with the anxiety and resistance around engagement in a small group setting. The programme would consist of a morning or afternoon session and provide taster small unit qualifications (if appropriate) in land based subjects. An emphasis would be given to team work skills and good communication in



addition to the development of social skills and mindfulness techniques. Students would be encouraged to start very small scale enterprise projects such as egg marketing, plant production or calf rearing as a means of developing functional skills and financial literacy.

The course leader has run two farm based centres in the past and has experience of working with very vulnerable young people. She has experience of curriculum planning and delivery and has written a nationally accredited course that combines animal care with personal growth and emotional literacy. It is envisaged that this project would signpost young people to local colleges to undertake land based qualifications if appropriate and to develop work based skills so that they may undertake work experience in land based industries.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Currently there are approximately 1.3 million people employed in the land based sector in the United Kingdom. According to Government statistics the sector is forecast to need 595,000 new entrants between now and 2020. Many land based businesses are small but rely on dependable and loyal staff who show high levels of skill and competency in working with animals or the natural environment. Research by MIND has found a direct correlation between working with the natural environment and better mental health outcomes for user groups. Young people with high levels of anxiety or learning difficulties have found challenges in obtaining employment opportunities particularly when rurally isolated in a large county such as Wiltshire. The Dairy School programme can give them the skills and resiliency to become part of the dependable workforce sought by the Wiltshire land based sector.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

DASH Swindon

Contact in organisation

Adrian Embling

Contact Details Telephone / email

[manager@dashswindon.com](mailto:manager@dashswindon.com) 07553 908084

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

10 part time

FT                  PT                  Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Supporting people on the autistic spectrum and their families through advice and guidance, social groups and training events to improve quality of life.

Mainly supporting adults who want to live safer, more fulfilled more independent lives – typical support includes help with housing issues, developing coping strategies for safer, more social living, supporting parents with children with Autism and helping people move towards the employment market and sustain employment.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

A more practical model of vocational assessment, to help people with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism understand their work-related skills, strengths and weaknesses in a more meaningful way.

Training to help people better understand how their skills meet the needs of local employers and what strategies they need to develop to maintain employment.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Despite having one of the highest 'want to work' rates amongst those disadvantaged in the labour market, people with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism are over-represented in the unemployment figures. Despite having demonstrable work-related skills and specialisms they are at a disadvantage in the current employment market because they communicate their skills poorly, or not at all. They are often unable to understand the social demands placed on them as an employee and often become involved in unnecessary conflict in working environments. Many do not understand how their weaknesses must and can be improved to meet employer needs. Many remain trapped in benefits, coming into conflict with the benefit paying agencies

because they neglect to address official correspondence promptly and do not understand the requirements placed upon them.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I feel we are too small to play a significant part in the consortium, although we are happy to attend any discussions about delivery to our client group.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Fairfield Farm College / Fairfield Opportunity Farm (Dilton) Ltd

Contact in organisation

Janet Kenward

Contact Details Telephone / email

01373 866061 janet.kenward@fairfieldfarmcollege.ac.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

How many employees do you have?

FT          PT          Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
The Charity currently runs an Independent Specialist College for young people with learning disabilities (aged 16 – 25) – which provides day and residential courses to prepare students to move into adulthood which could include seeking paid or voluntary employment, supported living and will enable them to become part of their local community. All students learn vocational skills, learn to apply them through the real work learning opportunities available on the college site and through work experience placements on employers premises. The college has recently been approved to refer directly to WEST (Wiltshire Employment Support Team) and Community Connecting and are working hard to ensure good partnership working to enable students to gain the most from the services available to them.

The charity is planning to diversify its activities to provide a much wider range of activities through which people with learning disabilities can be enabled to become more independent, expand their peer group and feel that they are valued members of their communities. Towards this goal the college has opened a youth club which after two pilot sessions for its own students welcomed 30 members on the opening night. Following an identified need by Wiltshire Council, Weekend Breaks have been offered – this is a service which is proving popular with young people who want to make new friends and increase their independence from their families. Holiday workshops have started, to date a dance workshop and an art workshop have been successfully run with the planning for an August programme underway. The charity is seeking to develop the very successful residential programme to provide supported living training and further short breaks opportunities from August 2015.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would very much like to set up a service to support people with learning disabilities to improve their employability skills through traineeships or other activities to increase their understanding of the requirements of the workplace or provide longer term day time activities through which people with disabilities are supported to feel that they are valued members of a team of volunteers who make products for sale or provide a service in the community. The charity has a site which could be adapted to meet the needs of such an enterprise. Initially we would look at plant and egg production but with time would like to diversify into other product which could be sold to retail outlets or at farmers markets. We feel that this would opportunities to learn skills which are transferable to a range of work places.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Government statistics demonstrate that people with learning disabilities are excellent employees, who when in the right role are very loyal to their employers and have a very low sickness record. However, getting a job and sustaining it for the first few months can be very challenging and much harder than for other people without learning disabilities. Employers can be concerned about employing people with learning disabilities and the employees often need a high level of support to understand the tasks they are required to do initially. Thus people with learning disabilities fit very much into the remit of 'those furthest from the workplace. Fairfield strongly believes that the proposed diversification of the charity will fill this gap between being a student at school or college and being an employee.

Many young people with learning disabilities lose the 'work ethic' they gain through their school or college course while they are 'waiting for work'. We believe that the proposed project would provide an opportunity for those with learning disabilities to attend a work placement regularly, acquire additional employability skills while working with WEST to seek permanent paid employment or through Community Connecting to seek long term voluntary work.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes, this would fit in well with my role as CEO of the charity – my remit is diversification of the charity and fund raising.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
First City Group

Contact in organisation  
Hannah Carter / Emma Curtis

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[hannahc@firstcitygroup.co.uk](mailto:hannahc@firstcitygroup.co.uk) / [emmac@firstcitygroup.co.uk](mailto:emmac@firstcitygroup.co.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Limited Company

How many employees do you have?

FT 50 PT 450 Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Covering Wiltshire and Gloucestershire we provide healthcare support to people within the local communities, nursing homes, residential homes and extra care facilities.

We have worked alongside the job centre with people who have been long term unemployed of all ages including over 50's, provided an intensive training course followed by work experience placements with the aim of them securing a position after the 6 weeks. We have the experience to do this again with a core group of individuals.

As an equal opportunity employer with the support of an award winning training company we have the tools to support people from all walks of life into a career in healthcare.

First City Group has a newly registered charity working from their head office, Friends of First City 1160769, giving us the capacity to arrange voluntary placements and monitor success.

We have a website [www.jobsincare.co.uk](http://www.jobsincare.co.uk) that has its own mobile recruitment office in the form of a bus, the bus itself has 4 working computers allowing candidates to apply for positions on the spot, complete online testing/assessments and of course providing a mobile office space for interviews/training.

First City Training are currently working with many young people in completing traineeships as well as apprenticeships. In many cases First City Nursing Services have offered full time positions to candidates on completing their qualification. We would look to expand this service.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Training courses, work experience (voluntary and paid), use of a mobile office space for training, applying and interviewing. Traineeships and apprenticeships. Offering employment opportunities.

Experience of working with long term unemployed.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
Mobile office would provide a much needed resource for the rural areas and socially excluded. We can offer flexible options for training and paid or voluntary employment for all ages. Vast experience of working with learning disabilities and mental health.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
Ideally not however would be happy to help should this be in short supply.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Training Provider Network (GWP)

Contact in organisation  
Julia Falaki

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[admin@gw-partnership.co.uk](mailto:admin@gw-partnership.co.uk) / 07732691769

What type of organisation are you?  
Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /  
Other: Please state: unincorporated association

How many employees do you have?  
FT            PT 1            Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
GWP is a membership network of training providers who have contracts and sub-contracts to deliver Skills Funding Agency / Education Funding Agency provision in the local authority areas of Swindon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. Members include the FE colleges, private sector and voluntary sector training providers. Provision ranges from apprenticeships and traineeships, foundation learning programmes, Skills for Life, employability programmes to work based learning. A number of members are also involved in working with Jobcentre Plus on employability provision and / or are involved in the Work Programmes.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership  
Access to a range of learning opportunities, including accredited employability and work related courses. Signposting and referral to learning programmes as positive outcomes, knowledge of different learning opportunities and which training providers deliver in which sector(s).

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
Opportunities to add value to the BBO programme by providing potential funded learning programmes, both during the project and as positive progression routes.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
Yes





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Greensquare Group

Contact in organisation

Sue Winter Employment Advisor

Contact Details Telephone / email

[Sue.winter@greensquaregroup.com](mailto:Sue.winter@greensquaregroup.com) /01249 466188

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Social Housing

How many employees do you have? We are a team of 3

FT            PT            Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Work Experience Placements & Training opportunities for Greensquare residents NOT in  
Employment, Education or Training  
Supporting customers on pathway to paid employment  
All residents aged 18-55 , NEET, can be referred across Wilts, Oxford & South Gloucester

I work from offices in Swindon & Chippenham

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership  
Liaison with other similar support groups and providers

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
Green Square group is Wiltshire wide in its housing provision. Social Housing has residents  
across the board in terms of need.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Inner Flame

Contact in organisation  
Gail McKay

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07728 622334 / [gail@innerflame.org.uk](mailto:gail@innerflame.org.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

How many employees do you have?

FT 4 PT 4 Volunteers 50+

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We deliver training programmes for 16-25 year olds (most of whom are unemployed/NEET) from Swindon and the surrounding area. Our focus is on personal development (confidence, goal setting, communication skills, self-esteem) and helping participants move towards employment. As well as the activities offered to the partnership (see below), we also offer an 8-week part-time programme for "job-ready" candidates who need more confidence and strategies for job-hunting, and a 4-day residential which is focused purely on personal development. Our training programmes include coaching and challenging experiences.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

- 1-1 advice & guidance (MATRIX accredited) and business mentoring, aimed at helping young people throughout their whole journey towards employment, identifying needs and signposting them to other providers who can help develop their skills and qualifications.
- "Reach for the Stars" - an optional 8-week (½ day per week) training programme, in small groups, to support initial engagement and encourage goal setting and weekly action towards goals.
- The Prince's Trust Team Programme (12 weeks full time, *already fully funded – no partnership funding needed*)
- Get on Track, a 14 month programme from The Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, which consists of 8 weeks' training (part time) plus a year's continuing engagement and mentoring, all led by professional / retired athletes and Paralympians.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Due to their lack of experience in the workplace, we find under 25s need (and prefer) support and training that is tailored for their age group. They are often very uncertain about their options and what they can offer, and will need 1-1 advice and guidance from someone who is totally focused

on their agenda.

As we do not offer academic qualifications, accredited vocational skills or apprenticeships, we can offer independent signposting to providers where appropriate, while we can offer ongoing, consistent and personal support throughout their journey.

As well as this 1-1 work, and qualifications from other providers, some young people will benefit from group training to engage them initially, and then to build confidence, communication and goal setting skills. Team Programme and Get on Track both include community projects, teamwork and employability, and have very strong national evidence of impact (but are delivered by selected local partners such as Inner Flame).

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Kennet Furniture Refurbiz

Contact in organisation  
Matthew Thacker

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[Matt.thacker@kfr.org.uk](mailto:Matt.thacker@kfr.org.uk)  
07517422577

What type of organisation are you?  
Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?  
FT 2      PT 6      Volunteers 15

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We collect unwanted furniture and whitegoods from local families at no charge (thus reducing landfill), and refurbish and repair it as necessary. We then sell it on, at a heavily discounted price, to disadvantaged families in the county, usually those on benefits and low-income.

Additionally we support disadvantaged people, by providing accredited training, volunteering opportunities, and support towards employment readiness.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Our work with disadvantaged people includes work with ex offenders, those with learning difficulties, those with mental health problems, ex-homeless people and people in recovery from addictions. Most of the people we work with are a long way from employment. We create volunteering opportunities for up to 40 people each year. When people volunteer with us they also benefit from: certified in house training; external professional training NVQs, and tailored progression to employment support including CV preparation and interview techniques. Some people are with us for a relatively short time, others for several years. About 10 people each year leave us and move into paid employment.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

KFR have an expertise at working with relatively small numbers of people to support them towards employment. We are able to do this because of our small size, local knowledge and excellent relationships with a variety of stakeholders, including referring agencies, local employers and local communities. We are confident that we can deliver employment and progression to employment outcomes as part of BBO, working with marginalised and disadvantaged people who are currently a long way from employment.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes, though we are relatively small, with limited capacity, so it would depend on what is involved in that.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
The Learning Curve

Contact in organisation  
Tim Ward

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[tim@learningcurve.org.uk](mailto:tim@learningcurve.org.uk) 07870 622132

What type of organisation are you?

Charity /  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 10 PT 40 Volunteers 4

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We are an SFA/EFA learning and skills provider working with marginalised and vulnerable groups. We are also a work programme provider specialising in supporting longer-term unemployed and prison leavers. We also lead a consortium of third sector learning providers and manage ESF community grants across the South West.

We support some 2,000 people per year

We provide advice, support and training for third sector organisations particularly those engaged in providing learning.

We work across Swindon and Wiltshire.

Target groups include:  
Long-term unemployed  
Older citizens  
Probation clients  
Young mothers  
Unemployed young people (NEET)  
Social housing tenants  
Digitally excluded

We are Matrix accredited and provider Information, Advice & Guidance as an integrated part of our services

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We could deliver a range of activities. We have a particular interest in developing more comprehensive support for young vulnerable/disadvantaged women who are pregnant or have young children to enable them to progress in education and eventually into work.

We are also interested in developing more support for social housing tenants to enable them to progress into employment

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

All are priority groups

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Littleredrooster sing and performance

Contact in organisation

Veronica.Wakeling

Contact Details Telephone / email

veronica.wakeling@ntlworld.com .07913816245

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT none      PT none      Volunteers 15

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We train all age group singers in all styles including classical and grand opera for performance level or professional status. We charge very little very often nothing, as long as our students have interest. All music is provided. We work in St. Johns Church Swindon Tuesday evenings. I also teach adult students during term time as an employee of New College Swindon, for the last 6-7 years. We also have learning disability students with aptitude for singing. Our oldest student for at least 10 years is now 74 and still singing with us, though disabled. Nice!

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Madanu

Contact in organisation

Rosa-Diane Lancaster

Contact Details Telephone / email

T - 07469 920846

E – [info@madanu.co.uk](mailto:info@madanu.co.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state – Limited Company

How many employees do you have?

FT 1 PT 0.5 Volunteers 2

Madanu is also in the process of recruiting further staff due to current demand.

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Madanu provides practical skill building courses tailored to the needs of those attending. Specifically focusing on supporting people towards and into employment and inclusion in their local and wider community. Madanu also works with people to build enterprise, developing enterprises that offer employment for people who have been long term unemployed or previously have not had the opportunity to work. Offering employment for themselves and others in the community. Madanu also offers consultancy and interim support to organisations, providing consultancy from 'experts by experience.'

The founder of Madanu has extensive experience of working with a range of different groups of people, including adults with learning disabilities, people with mental health needs, people who have been long term unemployed. Also set up of small scale grass roots projects right through to being the Director of Operations for a large national charity, this role incorporating tender for and delivery on large scale projects.

Madanu is currently developing its work and is in consultation with 4 local authorities, DWP and other organisations regarding joint collaboration and consultancy. Geographically the area Madanu is developing work in is Wiltshire, Swindon and surrounding counties.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Delivery of courses that provide practical skill building to enable people to have enhanced community and social inclusion and work towards employment. These would be Wiltshire and Swindon wide delivered in the locality of participants and tailored to specific needs and with clearly defined outcomes.  
Development of enterprise with individuals that they can be employed in. A number of ideas regarding this are already being worked on.  
Consultancy on inclusion from 'experts by experience.'

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

As I understand the scope of the BBO in Wiltshire and Swindon the focus is promoting social inclusion for people and supporting people to move towards and into work – these are the main focuses of the work Madanu does and Madanu is already in the process of employing people who are 'experts by experience' to work as part of the Madanu team.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I would be very happy to assist with this process.

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
 Royal Mencap Society  
 Education & Employment Bristol & South West

Contact in organisation  
 Nicky Payne

Contact Details Telephone / email  
 Mob: 07766 475566  
 Email: [nicky.payne@mencap.org.uk](mailto:nicky.payne@mencap.org.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity**

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 6,500 (nationally)      PT      Volunteers 591 (nationally)

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
 Provide support to people with learning disabilities of working age to find paid work. We support people to overcome their barriers to engaging in the labour market through holistic, tailored and 1:1 support which provides mentoring in the workplace. This helps people experience and learn key work skills that will improve their chances of gaining paid work. Our support includes: assessment of barriers, past experiences, action planning with clear and measurable goals to work towards, short training sessions on work related issues e.g. timekeeping, confidence building, staying safe at work, addressing bullying or harassment, following instructions and problem solving techniques. We offer guidance on interviews and hold mock interviews to give people practical experiences. We market employers matching individuals' profiles to job sectors. We offer employers learning disability awareness. We have a national team working with large employers e.g. Co-operative, Wetherspoons, National Trust, South West Trains etc. We can provide accredited and non accredited informal work related learning. We help people to gain the support they need in work to sustain their newly employed position. We can help people apply for Access to Work which can help with support, travel and specialist equipment costs at work.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We could bring the above range of support to the BBOP project in Swindon and Wiltshire. We currently deliver in West of England, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire and parts of Thames Valley. We would welcome the opportunity of working with people in Swindon and

Wiltshire area. There is insufficient funding to fully support people in the way they need to become more employable. Work Choice is capped and Work Programme continues to fail this group with only a very small percentage gaining any success from this e.g. under 8% of ESA general claimant numbers achieving any paid work. The funding would enable us to build up and develop through the Lead Partnership a more sustainable infrastructure after the BBOP funding has ended. Greater numbers of those with learning disabilities wanting to work would be helped and supported. Some would achieve paid work.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

People with learning disabilities are some of the most disadvantaged from the labour market only 7% of those known to social services are in work and 65% of those with learning disability say they want to work. It is generally known that 45% of those who are NEET have some form of learning difficulty. Most people we work with have had little or no experience of work but have been on many training programmes without connecting to any kind of paid work. People need the 1:1 support in the workplace to help them gradually build up their skills and abilities to meet employer's requirements and learn skills 'in context' from practical experience. Some people we have worked with have been registered on the Work Programme and the individuals were unaware. **NDTi 2014 – Supported Employment provision..... most effective ways of supporting people (with learning disability) to achieve paid work**  
<http://www.ndti.org.uk/major-projects/current/employment-support-for-disabled-people1/> **National Audit Office – Supporting a disabled person into work increases their income by 95%.**

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
We would support this where appropriate as required.



Assessing needs from  
The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Mike Read Associates

Contact in organisation

Mike Read

Contact Details Telephone / email

01380-813294 [mikeread@mikeread.org](mailto:mikeread@mikeread.org)

What type of organisation are you?

Sole Trader Consultancy

How many employees do you have?

2-15 Associates

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Mike Read Associates (MRA) is a small, highly-regarded consultancy, established in 1987 formerly based in Australia and now based in Wiltshire now offering its services both locally and internationally. Over the last 28 years MRA has helped NGOs fund, research, develop, implement and evaluate programmes of work around the globe. Please refer to [www.mikeread.org](http://www.mikeread.org) for information on MRA's work, clients, and Associates. Recent clients include Fairtrade International, ISEAL, and Community First. MRA specialises in a number of areas including cost-effective monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). For instance, one recent client, Earthwatch, needed help refreshing the MEL of a number of multi-million pound programmes sponsored by Shell and HSBC. MRA's work resulted in the following unsolicited testimonial:

*"Thank you so much for everything you have done on our programmes. You have brought wonderful order and sense to our programme objectives, outputs and outcomes. You have then helped us to turn these into a clear set of KPIs and materials for gathering this. We could never have done it without you and I feel confident that our learnings from this will be embedded across other programmes".*

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

The MEL expertise that MRA would bring to a partnership would be available to all projects, and to the lead organisation to ensure that high quality cross-cutting evaluation and learning take place. This would include helping the partnership develop:

- a set of agreed objectives for MEL of the projects in Wiltshire and Swindon,
- a Theory of Change, linked to Key Performance Indicators, and Additional Performance Indicators,
- a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan with responsibilities and schedule, and
- high quality reporting to partners, participants, the BIG Lottery, and press and media.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

*"Evaluation is an important feature of Building Better Opportunities. Throughout the delivery of the project, we need organisations to collect and report information so that key learning can be used more widely to influence the planning of similar provision and future programmes"*

*"We strongly encourage you to develop self-evaluation plans and identify opportunities for reflecting on and sharing learning..." (BBO Stage One Application Form).*

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

New College Swindon

Contact in organisation

Chris Baish – Adult Education Manager

Carol Willis – Community Learning Manager

Contact Details Telephone / email

[Chris.baish@newcollege.ac.uk](mailto:Chris.baish@newcollege.ac.uk)

[Carol.willis@newcollege.ac.uk](mailto:Carol.willis@newcollege.ac.uk)

**01793 611470**

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state: **FE College**

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT            Volunteers

**More than 600, mostly consisting of FT and PT employees**

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We work with all age groups (14+), delivering study programmes and adult learning across all sectors and modes of delivery, including academic, vocational and apprenticeship programmes.

We also offer professional training solutions via our Fast Forward team. We have partnerships across the UK as well as in the Swindon and Wiltshire region.

In addition, we have extensive experience of community learning contracts with Swindon Borough Council, linked to Social Inclusion, Employability and NEET prevention.

We work with JC+ over Skills Conditionality Provision, and recently completed a 6 month contract for delivering intensive employability to over 250 unemployed 18-24 year olds.

We are a subcontractor for existing ESF provision to several lead organisations, and our ESF turnover this year is expected to be £270k.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would be interested in sharing responsibility for leading the project. With our extensive experience in managing NEET, Community and ESF projects we feel that we would be a strong ally in project management.

In addition, we have a large existing infrastructure dedicated to engaging and supporting progression of all age groups, abilities and needs, into education and into work. We have strong relationships with local community and voluntary sector groups, including Children's Centres and Primary Schools, Pinehurst Initiative Forum, Housing Associations, Harbour Project, Headway,

CRI, The Gate, Re-Build, SAMs, ISIS and Mind.

We can offer a breadth of accredited and non-accredited learning, supported by flexible modes of delivery. This can include everything from short awareness and engagement activities in groups or 1:1, through to longer, more substantial qualifications, and of course English, Maths and ICT at all levels. In addition to our main site, we also have a town-centre location (MTC Learning), which has a successful history of supporting learners with English, ESOL, Maths and IT skills.

We already deliver vocational taster days and longer workshops at community locations across Swindon, on behalf of Swindon Borough Council, so can bring this experience to the project.

We have a large network of supportive employers who can offer work-related opportunities to service users.

We can also offer 1:1 support and referral services alongside other provision, which we have delivered with great success this year as part of our current ESF Families Action Programme.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The scope of Building Better Opportunities is huge and will demand a multi-agency approach. Many of the organisations involved in the delivery of this will be able to offer pockets of expertise and specialism. We have proven experience in drawing together these strands, but also in being able to complete the picture for the service users through engagement in education at all levels, and progression onto qualifications that will help them into work or greater independence.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes, we'd be very keen to be involved in the tendering process.





Assessing funds from  
The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

**The Olive Tree Cafe and TWIGS** (Therapeutic Work In Gardening Swindon)

Contact in organisation

Gillian Barber - Trustee

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 814551 gillian.barber4@btinternet.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

**Olive Tree Cafe**

FT 1 PT 14 Volunteers 54

**TWIGS** 5 33 and 83 service users

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

The objects of the charity are:

- To offer opportunities for people experiencing mental health problems to regain confidence and self-esteem through learning new skills and participating in therapeutic activities and
- to preserve and protect the good mental health of people recovering from mental illness or at risk of suffering mental illness, by providing them with positive, work-related opportunities in a cafe open to public, in order to take them a step nearer the world of work.

**The cafe** is based in the Manor Garden Centre in Swindon. We employ a full-time cafe Manager who has skills and qualifications in the field of mental health as well as restaurant management. This role is crucial in guiding, supporting, training and managing the volunteers, some of whom come to us with serious mental health problems and require a high level of understanding, support and guidance, especially in the initial weeks/months of their volunteering. Some have suffered extremes of mental illness, some have an Aspergers diagnosis, suffer from autism or have other learning disabilities which have a negative impact on their social skills, relationships and opportunities for progress into society.

We arrange/offer appropriate skills training for all our volunteers and support and help them manage the difficulties and challenges being faced both in the cafe and in their daily lives. In addition we offer regular reviews, support and encouragement on their path to recovery.

To date more than 130 volunteers have worked in the cafe with over 60 having moved into employment, training or volunteering elsewhere.

Currently we have 54 people volunteering with us on a regular basis where they become valued members of a team, are appreciated by the customers, learn social skills, make new friends, develop in confidence and self esteem and have opportunities for training in the marketable skills necessary in this field of work.

**TWIGS** is based on the same site and works with people with mental health difficulties as detailed above. In addition to the 5 part-time, employed, staff we have 33 volunteers and 83 service users who work in the gardens and have opportunities to learn a variety of crafts, including woodcraft skills at their regular sessions. The peace of the gardens and the fact that people are able to work quietly and at their own pace, with support from the staff always at hand, offers a first step back into society for our many service users. In addition to the therapy that people gain through working in the peaceful setting of the gardens, they have regular one-to-one support when necessary, and one-to-one reviews to track and celebrate their progress. The gardens are open to the public on a regular basis which allows positive feedback to everyone working there, crafts and plants produced at the project are offered for sale - all giving a sense of pride in what has been achieved and helping to build confidence and self esteem.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

**TWIGS** is a long established project with an excellent reputation and much local support where, over the past 17 years, many people have regained their confidence and self esteem by learning new skills, making new relationships and where they have been supported and encouraged along their journey towards independence.

As a member of a partnership working towards helping people who have suffered mental health problems on their path towards work we feel that the **Olive Tree Cafe** is both suited and qualified to offer volunteering opportunities to people who have an interest in this area of work.

The Olive Tree Cafe Manager has developed, registered and successfully delivered an 8 week Cafe Cookery Course with the Open College Network (Level 2) which has resulted in outstanding increase in confidence of the cafe volunteers attending. Having developed numerous skills which are both valued and important in the successful day to day running of the cafe, we now see these volunteers helping and encouraging others, all of which is contributing to their self esteem.

The role of Volunteer Co-ordinator, working with both projects and linking with other charities working in the same area of need could be a possible consideration for the Partnership.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

We see the opportunities available through volunteering and training at the **Olive Tree Cafe** and working at **TWIGS** as being of great value to people who have suffered mental health difficulties. These are places where volunteering is used as a tool for change, where people receive holistic support during their time there and will be a valuable step in moving towards employment. In working in partnership with other charities and organisations in a similar field, we feel that the opportunities we offer will become more widely known and the skills training and support provided will therefore be more easily available to people with an interest in this field of work.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No thank you



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

The Open Door Centre (Swindon & District) Ltd

Contact in organisation

Susan Pearson

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 512357 theopendoor@btconnect.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /  
1107869 5216053  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 2 PT 7 Volunteers 21

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We exist to make a positive difference in the lives of adults with learning disabilities, enabling our members to achieve their highest potential. We do this by providing a range of activities within a safe, supportive and non-judgemental environment. Members are involved in every level of decision making about the running of the Centre and are encouraged to be independent adults, understanding their rights and choices, in order to become respected, confident, valued members of society.

All members are respected as adults and are given every opportunity to exercise their right to be heard. The Open Door Centre recognises that people with learning disabilities have the same needs as the rest of society – to learn, to undertake meaningful and fulfilling work and to socialise with a wide range of other people, but ultimately to exercise some control over their own lives.

We work in Swindon and the immediate surrounding area, with adults (18+).

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Part of the work we do is ensuring members have the skills to move into employment, paid or voluntary. Adults with learning disabilities are often assumed to be unable to contribute to society. This can re-enforce their lack of confidence. We encourage members to think about how they present themselves and how they can demonstrate their abilities, as well as improving their confidence. The members have regular meetings to decide what they want to do at the Centre and this includes speakers and courses. These have included

- a six week course run by Swindon College on healthy living, which included personal hygiene, exercise and healthy eating,
- a First Aid course run by the Red Cross,
- a speaker from Intel talking about Health & Safety at work, and
- a series of computer familiarisation sessions.

Although many of the sessions we run result in the members being presented with certificates, we have found we can formalise this through the AQA Unit Award Scheme, which provides recognised units that build up to a basic qualification. These units, which are at a variety of skill levels, can be gained at the member's own pace and are assessed independently.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

This work is exactly what the BBO requires, as we are working with a group which is furthest from the labour market, by promoting social inclusion – towards and into work

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Unfortunately we probably do not have the resources to do this.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

**The Platform Project**

Contact in organisation

**Sadie Harries**

Contact Details Telephone / email

**07956 686607 / info@platformproject.co.uk**

What type of organisation are you?

**CIC**

How many employees do you have?

**1 FT                  6 PT                  25 Volunteers                  (When launched)**

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

The Platform Project is an exciting new youth development project starting in Swindon, aimed at inspiring aspirations and creating options for 16-24 year old NEETS (young people Not in Employment, Education or Training) by innovatively combining a range of enterprise, employability and enrichment activities in an "Apprentice" style project.

Due to launch towards the end of 2015, the project will be operating a branch in Swindon, working with 20-40 participants each year, on a 12 month development programme.

The client groups that we are targeting are the "hard to engage" 16-24 year old NEETS, who are not participating in "mainstream" activities such as education or employability support programmes. Our developmental approach has been structured in such a way to build the confidence, behaviour, aspiration and desire needed for this difficult to engage group to "re-enter" mainstream pathways upon completion of the programme, and is therefore geared towards working with participants that:

- Have behavioural or attitudinal issues
- Refuse to engage with "classroom" based development
- Do not thrive in traditional educational settings
- Display enterprising or innovative potential but require intensive support to constructively harness
- Do not respond well to authority figures
- Have low levels of team-working and personal accountability

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

The project is comprised of 3 key developmental elements that are structured and combined to develop difficult to engage NEETS with a range of "hard" and "soft" skills that will not only equip them to re-enter the employment market, but actually want more for themselves and possess the skills necessary to build a more sustainable future for themselves. The final page details the "journey" that the young people will go through during the 12 month programme, and how each element of the scheme fits together.

- 1) The enterprise scheme forms the hub of the programme, and entails the young people working with a range of local enterprise traders to undertake a variety of different activities that generate a (commercially reinvested) income, such as producing upcycled goods for sale, offering public services, assisting local small businesses, or arranging fundraising events, all within a guided yet competitive "Apprentice" style environment. This is an attractive alternative option for NEETS when compared with other "mainstream" formal education and training

options, yet the skills learnt during these activities have a threefold benefit – firstly, they are developing a work ready, personally responsible attitude, as well as the life skills and confidence required to operate in a commercial environment. Secondly, they will be learning a range of skills that, whatever happens in their home or work lives, will provide them with a way to earn money and be more financially independent on a long term basis. And lastly, the activities will provide them with a range of experiences and skills that they can choose to expand upon by transferring them to the world of employment or by starting their own enterprise up. And should they choose to start up an enterprise, we can either pair them up with a business mentor or start up support agency, or they can start their enterprise as another trading arm of the project, where they can receive guidance and support in their transition to independence.

- 2) In addition to this, as a way of helping the young people learn what jobs are available, and start to build their CV's, there is a work experience element to the programme, which is run in 2 stages – the first stage is series of a short, 2 days per week experiences where the young people will be attached to one employer for 4 weeks, learning 2 or 3 different roles, and they will then rotate around to a different employer. This is undertaken for 6 months to help the young people start to see what range of jobs are out there, what is involved in them, and what they feel they might be suited to. It will also benefit them by building their confidence in being able to operate in a professional environment, yet be short term enough to not lose their attention or motivation to maintain attendance. The second phase is where they can identify what role or skill area they would like to start to specialise in and work on a dedicated basis with one employer or enterprise trader for 4 days per week for 3 months in a “mini apprenticeship” style placement. They will work towards a structured skills matrix to ensure that both parties get maximum value from the placement by starting to build the capability to start to undertake that role. This stage, aside from confidence building, will either provide them with a solid foundation to apply for a job in, generate a desire to undertake further education or training in, or give them the aspiration to want to start up an enterprise of their own.
- 3) The Enrichment component of the scheme will cover a range of activities and essentially underpins the pastoral support for the whole programme. It will include short / modular qualifications, so that the young people can start to build their CV credentials in a way that retains their attention and is more conducive with a chaotic and unstructured lifestyle than traditional long, classroom bases qualifications. It will also involve personal and relationship development activities, with qualified youth workers being attached to each group and working 1:1 with each delegate, guiding individualised growth plans, teambuilding activities, self-awareness exercises, and guided partnership working with external agencies like counsellors and behavioural therapists where necessary. In addition to the relationship with a Youth Worker, each young person involved with the scheme will be paired up with a volunteer mentor, who will be a professional role model and work with that young person to assist their transition into the world of employment and enterprise, as well as providing advice and guidance on how to succeed and overcome any barriers that present along the journey.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The combination of activities under the one project provides an attractive, practical and applied development programme for young people that are socially disadvantaged. The different causes of social disadvantage provide a complex range of barriers to participation, including culture, attitude, confidence, and opportunities, and the ability to provide a vehicle that can address these issues and re-engage this group to focus them on positive outcomes like employment, training and education provides a direct match to the BBO requirements.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

If possible and appropriate.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
The Pluss Organisation

Contact in organisation  
Lucy Norbury

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[Lucy.Norbury@pluss.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Norbury@pluss.org.uk) Tel 07407 733804

What type of organisation are you?  
Pluss is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee (company number 05171613) that exists as a Social Enterprise which reinvests margins to achieve social purpose outcomes.

How many employees do you have?

FT 11 PT 7 Volunteers 0

These figures are for Swindon and Wiltshire area and not the company as a whole. Pluss has a total workforce of over 500 people, of which around 50% have a disability,

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Pluss is a specialist employability provider with a clear social purpose. In Swindon and Wiltshire we currently deliver the DWP Work Choice contract working with unemployed customers with disabilities and long term health conditions (on a voluntary basis) to obtain and sustain employment. We deliver this as an end to end sub contractor Working Links in Swindon & Wiltshire, West of England and Gloucestershire; as an end to end subcontractor to Shaw Trust in Somerset and as a prime provider to DWP in Devon & Cornwall and West Yorkshire. We have offices in Swindon, Chippenham and Salisbury but also see customers on an out reach basis in Devizes and Trowbridge, renting or utilising free space. Pluss consistently exceeds national performance profiles (Job Entry 32% against 30%) and is recognised by DWP as a high achieving specialist employability provider.

We also deliver workshops on behalf of Wiltshire Council on the Steps to Strides provision (DWP/ESF) for those further from the job market, promoting social inclusion and community interaction with a view to entering the job market. Pluss' vision is that people of all abilities are inspired to achieve a career. Pluss' business purpose is to help people who are furthest from the labour market into employment. In practice, the work of the company is focussed on people with disabilities, and covers the full range of conditions such as physical issues, mental health and learning disabilities.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership



Pluss can provide our tried and tested 'Specialist Employability Workshops' which contain up to 14 different modules, including:

- employability skills,
- confidence building,
- assertiveness,
- personal presentation,
- motivation,
- why work and overcoming barriers to employment.
- one to one coaching sessions
- work experience/work placements/taster days/work trials
- employer engagement

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our current delivery in Swindon & Wiltshire fits well with the requirements of the Building Better Opportunities tender as we are actively engaging the hardest to reach and helping them to overcome significant barriers and supporting them to develop employability skills and progress into sustained employment. Pluss have developed a specialist skills set in regards to successfully supporting people with disabilities, and we cover the full range of conditions such as physical issues, mental health and learning disabilities.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Pre-school Learning Alliance

Contact in organisation  
Mike Page

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07702 951566  
mike.page@pre-school.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity /  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT            Volunteers We have 2,400 employees nationally and 40,000 volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
The Pre-school Learning Alliance is the largest early years membership organisation and voluntary sector provider of quality affordable childcare and education in England. An educational charity, the Alliance represents the interests of over 14,000 member settings who deliver care and learning to over 800,000 families every year. We have local sub-committees (branches) across England, as well as a network of tutors delivering learning support to groups and individuals

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership  
As an early years charity we work with families. This provides us with access to adults who are not currently engaged with the labour market or who may be struggling to find work. We deliver this support on a 1:1 and group basis, providing accredited and unaccredited training (including employability skills), coaching / mentoring as well as information, advice and guidance(IAG).

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
We believe this work can fit in with the specific requirement to support adults who are furthest from the labour market

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
No – we believe there are people better placed to do this. However, we are happy to support in any way we can as a potential delivery partner.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Reach Inclusive Arts

Contact in organisation

Yvonne Chamberlain

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 520318 reachinclusive3@btconnect.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT            2            Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Reach Inclusive Arts (Reach) is a Swindon based arts charity that supports learning disabled people and those who have used mental health services. We create opportunities for people to experience art as a therapeutic medium to create exciting and authentic work which communicates their life experience. Activities are designed that both address isolation and discrimination through participatory arts and promote inclusion through engagement in the local community. The charity aims to leave a lasting sense of value and cultural acceptance for disadvantaged people through exhibition and performance. Reach Inclusive Arts provides a variety of activities that employ professional artists in a range of media and believe that high quality arts facilitate personal and professional development and can foster social inclusion. The charity works with over 150 participants in different project groups who benefit through nurturing artistic potential in shared experiences which support independent living skills. In 2012 and 2014 Reach ran workshops for learning disabled adults which helped them overcome barriers to employment by increasing their self-esteem, raising their expectations and improving advocacy skills. All projects end with public performance.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Art and drama sessions called 'Working Arts' as training opportunities for people with learning disabilities to improve their prospects of employment. Sessions will take place in Swindon's Wyvern Studio Theatre (which would be supplied as free as in-kind support). Reach will employ professional, experienced art and drama practitioners who will deliver the training. Reach have significant experience of employing arts workers who are adept at working with mixed ability groups. All arts workers will be DBS checked and comply with our "Working with Vulnerable Adults Policy". Reach will ensure that the creative content will be structured to enable participants to identify issues that have prevented them from taking up, or maintaining employment. This project will find ways of remedying participant's feelings of low self-esteem, lack of confidence and inability to be assertive. The material employed by the facilitators will be tailored to address these particular difficulties by establishing new criteria for success. The sessions will practise dialogue through improvised scenarios recreating interview situations with attention to communication styles and the employment of positive language. The sessions will also concentrate on developing ideas, team working, planning and completing a project.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

In the last five years Reach have delivered several projects that have equipped the participants with skills for employment and are a proven capable provider. Our projects are specifically designed to empower those people who are furthest from the labour market to develop their skills and talents, and overcome challenges.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Potentially



Building Better Opportunities
Potential Partner Information
<b>Name of Organisation</b> Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company
<b>Contact in organisation</b> Yvonne Maunder - Business Support Manager Sue Jackson – Education, Training & Employment Co-ordinator
<b>Contact Details Telephone / email</b> yvonne.maunder@bgs.wiltshire.gov.uk sue.jackson@bgs.wiltshire.gov.uk
<b>What type of organisation are you?</b>  Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /  Other: Please state : Community Rehabilitation Company
<b>How many employees do you have?</b> Wiltshire only: FT 80 PT 28 Volunteers ( provided via Opening Doors project)
<b>Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups</b> Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company brings together three of the most innovative and high achieving probation trusts in the country. As one organisation, we have the potential to be even more effective in reducing reoffending by pooling our ideas and best practice, knowledge and experience. We supervise low and medium risk offenders in the community and deliver a range of targeted interventions aimed at rehabilitation and reducing offending. Our work plays a vital role in helping people lead more positive lives. This reduces the number of victims of crime, restores communities and saves taxpayers millions of pounds. (The National Audit Office estimates that reoffending costs this country over £10 billion every year.) We help people move away from crime by helping them recover from addiction to drugs and alcohol, move towards healthier lifestyles, find somewhere to live and get back to work. By reducing crime and anti-social behaviour we reduce the risk and fear of crime in communities.
<b>Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership</b>  Delivering innovative interventions that meet the individual clients needs within the diverse and rural communities of Swindon & Wiltshire. We specialise in engaging with vulnerable, hard to reach individuals who are frequently marginalised by society, offering tailored support to enable re-integration into local communities.
<b>Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying needs</li> <li>• Supporting skills development</li> <li>• Targeted interventions for vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Address barriers</li> <li>• Create sustainable opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?</b>  Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Seeds4Success

Contact in organisation  
Jaki Farrell

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07585723824

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT            5 PT            7 Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Seeds4Success is a small youth work charity based in South West Wiltshire (Mere, Tisbury & Wilton including the surrounding villages). We provide volunteering and training opportunities which support the development of personal and work relevant skills for young people (target aged 11 – 19yrs) living in the rural communities in and around Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. We also deliver a weekly youth work session to young people (11-25years) with SEND and offer leadership opportunities for the young people engaged in our programmes

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would like to develop a programme for young people aged 15+ that are in danger of becoming NEET or those who are already NEET, providing them with volunteering opportunities, training and relevant qualifications. We would work with these vulnerable young people in a group setting, developing their personal skills, team work and co-operation as well as supporting them to carry out practical jobs within the community. We would also like to work with these young people to access work experience away from the group, with the view to enabling them to access further training or employment away from the project. We would like to work with local employers and training providers to devise appropriate support packages to give these vulnerable young people the best chance of success in their chosen exit route from the programme. We are also hoping to develop a project that will provide part time employment opportunities to local young people.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Young People aged 15 at risk of NEET or young people 16+ who are NEET, including those aged up to 25 with SEND would be supported to achieve one of the 3 key results targets. We would work with local schools, colleges, job centres and integrated youth services to identify key individuals in the local area. Through mentoring and support we would enable these young people to gain qualifications, skills and experience and support them to move into education, employment or training on leaving the project.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I'm happy to support in any way possible although I am only employed 2 days a week in this role so time is quite limited

## Building Better Opportunities

### Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Care and Support Partnership trading as SEQOL

Contact in organisation  
Toff Andersen or Simon Billingham

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[Toff.andersen@seqol.org](mailto:Toff.andersen@seqol.org) (01793 463447)  
[Simon.billingham@seqol.org](mailto:Simon.billingham@seqol.org)

What type of organisation are you?  
CIC / IPS Other: Please state: Social Enterprise

How many employees do you have?  
FT 692 PT 274 Volunteers ~ 60

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

SEQOL supported employment service is a well-established team providing person-centred supported employment to people with a wide range of disadvantage, including learning disabilities, autism, physical disability, mental health issues, hearing and vision impairments and long term unemployed. SEQOL also has expertise in working with NEETS and other young people with barriers to employment. It enjoys a high success rate of helping people gain full time equivalent paid work. Last year it was 36%. The team have delivered ESF and DWP projects successfully, as well as delivering service level agreements for various colleges and the local authority. The service combines the most effective methods of traditional supported employment combined with more current trends. Staff undergo regular training in understanding disability, as well as in motivational and communication techniques. Staff also undertake development in understanding the world business to ensure better employment outcomes for people using the service.

Operating in Swindon, job seekers are offered the following menu of opportunity to take them to paid work, voluntary work or further learning:

Activity	Description	Aim
Soft skills training course	Accredited entry level 3 qualification	Gain confidence, understand and practice employer expectations,
Vocational profiling	Establish strengths, skills and gaps	To ensure an accurate work sector match to underpin success
Work experience	Trying out different work sectors with local businesses. In addition, SEQOL has Enterprise Works, a supported business. Over 90% of its workforce is disabled. Enterprise Works would be a skills training area.	Plug gaps in knowledge, test resilience and stamina, gain experience for CV, possible job openings
Job coaching	1:1 on the job coaching	Using training in systematic instruction techniques, breaking jobs down in to bite sized pieces to ensure successful learning

CV writing	Getting information down in an acceptable format	To ensure CVs are created in a format recognised by employers
Job searching / goal setting	Using IT, agencies and business networks to find work	To ensure job seekers have a positive outcome of paid or voluntary work or further learning
Interview skills	Using business people to give a mock interview, following a techniques session	To acquire skills needed for a successful interview

From this menu, job seekers decide with SEQOL a programme that meets their needs and experience. SEQOL has a strong employer network that benefits from SEQOL's expertise, support and understanding of a diverse work force. SEQOL is also able to draw on other resources to support job seekers, for example the SEQOL health checks and stop smoking service. In addition, SEQOL offers a psychology service through Lift.

Lift Psychology provides a community psychology service to the residents of Swindon and surrounding areas. The service has an open access service which operates like a GP service for people with mental health difficulties. We offer a range of psychological services including psycho-education groups for a range of difficulties such as stress and mood management, self esteem, pain management, obsessional compulsive disorder and a number for people with long term health conditions. Also, we offer individual work for a range of psychological presentations for those requiring more in depth work.

People coming to our service often arrive with complex difficulties which severely effect their ability to maintain work and we have worked with individuals to help them return to work or engage in other activities. Our main skill is to help people overcome some of the psychological barriers which interfere with their ability to return to work. We have worked alongside many community based organisations i.e. children`s centres, SARC, the prison, Richmond Fellowship etc over the past 20 years and have worked across Swindon, Wiltshire, Bristol, Bath and South Gloucestershire.

We work in all GP surgeries in Swindon and have a base at Old Town Surgery where we hold a number of the groups. We work in a number of community setting too such as the Colleges and children`s centres. We work hard to engage with groups who traditionally are hard to reach such as asylum seekers and offenders.

We pride ourselves on the ability to be flexible to the needs of the community and are happy to develop new ways of working as the need emerges.

**Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership**

SEQOL is uniquely positioned to become a partner to bid for this opportunity that will be launched early in June. As a Social Enterprise, SEQOL supports people to make the most of their lives through an integrated approach to employment, health and social care. We provide services in Swindon (e.g. Adults Community Health and Social Care services), Wiltshire (e.g. Autism), Oxfordshire (e.g. sensory therapy) and West Berkshire (e.g. DVT diagnosis and supported living).

With a proven track record in helping people with:

- disabilities,
- health conditions,
- a history of long term unemployment and
- NEETS enjoy social and economic inclusion through paid work,
- volunteering or lifelong learning,

SEQOL can offer a holistic and creative approach to delivering this bid. SEQOL recognises that to create sustainable solutions to unemployment, a whole person approach needs to be put in place within their community. SEQOL's expertise in developing community partnerships to support and enhance this delivery will be invaluable.

SEQOL already operates a variety of supported employment services, enabling it to offer those people furthest from the labour market a service that is tailored / bespoke to meet their needs. This includes the following features:

- Working in partnership with Swindon College, SEQOL delivers an accredited course in 'Exploring Employability Skills', enabling job seekers to gain a qualification and enhance their CV
- SEQOL assesses the needs of the job seeker and tailors a programme to meet those needs. The programme could include, CV writing, work experience, mock interviews, job search and interview support, as well as support to ensure job retention
- SEQOL has a variety of training areas where people can learn and practice work skills, ranging from wood working, signage production, assembly, retail and catering



- SEQOL has a vast network of business contacts established where previous supported employees have grown and developed into successful employment

For those who find employment more challenging due to mental health challenges, SEQOL also offer more clinical support through LIFT Psychology

Generic offer:-

- Employment support for people coming from secondary care mental health services
- Employment support for people who are difficult to engage due to the complexity of their mental health difficulties
- Employment support for people with complex presentations and long term health conditions

Employment support will include offering psychological interventions such as motivational interviewing and solution focussed therapy to help these people overcome the psychological barriers that they experience which make it very difficult for people to move on and learn new skills. This can be in group and individual settings.

This will be specifically aimed at people who have struggled to take what has been offered to them previously (maybe from other consortium members) to help them move towards employment. Thus they may require more engagement than others or could benefit from a psychological understanding of their difficulties which contribute to their inability to take up the offer of employment

Offer to other organisations as part of the consortium:-

- Training on motivational interviewing and solution focussed therapy
- Training on psychological approaches to the management of long term health conditions
- Clinical advisory service to stakeholders when they are experiencing difficulties with individuals i.e risk, engagement difficulties
- Link with secondary care mental health services as LIFT is currently joint triaging at the front end of mental health services in primary care liaison

SEQOL has a proven record of bid writing and delivering ESF and DWP funded projects to high contract management standards. We have experienced Project and Programme Managers as well as Operational Service Managers.

SEQOL also work with supported businesses to deliver employment opportunities and currently have 41 work choice placements within our business. These are across manufacturing, retail, facilities and care. We are committed to working with individuals through an extensive network of businesses we have established as part of our membership of Swindon Influence, One Swindon, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce member and various business groups.

**Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities**

We can support organisations as a partner for this bid. As a partner we would offer supported employment services as outlined above and support for those seeking employment both in terms of skill development and social / health support. We would be happy to review our offer above, to develop a more target specific offer for the beneficiaries identified by the bid.

We will also provide support and training to member organisations developing the community supporting - developing a sustainable resilience.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes please, we would welcome the opportunity.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

SERVICE USER NETWORK SWINDON (SUNS)

Contact in organisation

Margaret O'Sullivan

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 436174 / sunsoffice@swindonsuns.org

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity** / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 1      PT 3      Volunteers 5

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups.

Based at 163 Victoria Road Swindon SN1 3BU we open to mental health service users on Monday's Tuesday's, Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm and on Saturdays between 12 and 4pm. We are service user led for service users, which enables us all to understand what we have or are going through. We offer group activities, as well as computer training. We teach life skills to the vulnerable. We operate a helpline for Swindon and surrounding areas every night between 6pm and midnight offering a life line to those in need of support preventing from going into a crisis.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership.

Being a small mental health charity where we offer a safe and friendly place for adult mental health service users, we could offer computer training courses to gain a recognised qualification in an environment where service users don't feel under pressure.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

To obtain a qualification while recovering from a mental illness would not only help with building a person's self-esteem it would also help them find paid or voluntary work in the community.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

South West Foundation

Contact in organisation

Jan Crawley CEO

Contact Details Telephone / email

01761471104

Jcrawley@southwestfoundation.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state The South West Foundation is an IPS accepted a Charitable by Inland Revenue/exempt charity

How many employees do you have?

2 FT          1 PT          Volunteers          6 Associates

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

### Grants

South West Foundation invests in local communities through Grants, research and training. The Foundation has been delivering the Community Grant ESF Programme in partnership with the Learning Curve since 2009. On the most recent programme the Foundation provided the financial resources to enable the grant programme to be delivered. Prior to this the Foundation managed the ESF Global Grant Programme on its own, match funding the ESF funding from our own resources. All these programmes were focussed on moving people who were furthest removed from the Labour market toward employment. The programmes also included a capacity building programme, assisting the small Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations(VCSO) who were grant recipients, to comply with the requirements to successfully measure the movement of the people that they assisted. The programme has been evaluated many times as a highly successful programme in moving people toward employment and getting people into jobs, further training and volunteering. The Foundation currently also manages two small grant programmes on behalf of the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Sovereign Housing Association for small grants up to £1,000.

## **Training**

### **Capacity Building**

The Foundation has been providing training to over 400 small Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations through our Capacity Building Programme that we have been running as part of the Community Grant Programme.

### **Creating Changes**

The Foundation has also trained over 400 people in local communities throughout the South West Region in our Creating Changes Programme. The aim of this programme is to train people who are unemployed or economically inactive to become leaders in their communities through the Community Researcher model of training. This programme builds people's confidences, gives them new skills and enables them to undertake small scale research projects looking not just at community needs but also at community solutions. It has been evaluated as a highly successful programme to enable and empowering people to become engaged in their communities, to set up new services and projects in local communities, and enabling people into employment.

### **Research and Evaluation**

The Foundation has undertaken and published a wide range of research projects supporting and evidencing mainly small groups within the Voluntary and Community Sector. The Foundation also led on the Community Empowerment Research and has undertaken evaluation for such agencies as housing associations and Greenham Common Trust.

The Foundation targets people most in need in communities. The most recent programme has been targeting people from BME Communities, Lone parents, women and people over 50+ who are furthest removed from the labour market, disabled people, people who are unemployed or economically inactive. The Foundation covers the whole of the South West but has been more involved in the West of England, Wiltshire and Swindon and Torbay and Gloucestershire and Devon.

## **Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership**

As well as our experience in managing programmes that move people who are the furthest removed from the labour market toward employment through the management of ESF Funding, the programme that the Foundation would like to progress is the Creating Changes Programme. This programme provides people who are furthest removed from the labour market with the opportunity to pick up new skills and confidences in the area of Community Research. This programmes assists people to establish new community activities and projects and has also been successful in moving people toward employment and getting people into paid employment and self-employment. This programme helps people to move forward with their lives. As one participant put it 'you have helped us to light the touch paper and now we are off.'

With all of the programmes mentioned the Foundation has been involved with programme that have assisted several thousand people throughout the South West to

move toward employment and to successfully enter employment.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The activities that have been described on this form are activities that fit in with the Building Better Opportunities requirements to benefit people who are furthest removed from the labour market, unemployed or economically inactive and to assist them to pick up new skills and confidences to move toward and into employment. Many of the programmes have involved training volunteers, offering them supported work experience, the Creating Changes Programme works with people who pick up new skills and confidences to initially become unpaid community volunteers and community leaders.

The Foundation has experience in ESF funding since 2002, has managed around £4 million + in ESF funding .the Foundation also has an extensive network and connections with small Voluntary and community Sector organisations in the area.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

We would need to know more about the requirements of this and the purpose but in principle yes.



Accounting funds from  
The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Splitz Support Service

Contact in organisation  
Peter Davies, Fundraising Coordinator

Contact Details Telephone / email:  
[peter.davies@splitz.org](mailto:peter.davies@splitz.org) 01225 777724

What type of organisation are you?  
Charity

How many employees do you have?  
FT 21 PT 74 Volunteers 35

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
**Splitz Support Service** delivers support across Wiltshire to vulnerable, excluded survivors (also children and male perpetrators) around the challenges of their experience of domestic abuse:  
The women (predominantly women) who come to us are often distressed, in fear, at the end of their ability to cope, not knowing where to turn. They are often broken by their experiences; their self worth having been stripped away; isolating themselves and unable to trust; mostly lacking the energy for any but the most basic of tasks.  
Our experience is that, for most, the effects of domestic abuse are possible to overcome; often by addressing painful realities and the discovery of new inner strengths.  
It is a process that needs time, space and safety to begin. In our experience and with our support – gathered over 26 years of delivery in Wiltshire (and now also with recently commissioned services in Devon and Gloucestershire) - strong positive coping mechanisms and positive relationships are developed. The gaining or re-discovery of such strengths allows opportunities for women, previously excluded and isolated, to engage within the community to explain, to teach and to be role models in building stronger communities. For the survivors, far from the labour market and lacking the self confidence to gain training or skills, we provide measured and successful interventions which make a difference.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

1. Over 80% of our volunteers (often ex-service users themselves) gain sufficient confidence to seek and gain employment.
2. Using our newly developed system of 'lead buddies' and under current funding arrangements, we will be growing trained teams of volunteers in the different geographical areas of Wiltshire.
3. We anticipate supporting approximately 500 people over the programme lifetime
4. In a survey we carried out in January 2015 a substantial proportion gave a positive response to a question on whether our intervention 'increased access for them to training and employment opportunities'.
5. Funding from the BBO programme will sustain and enlarge on our existing and future funded plans.
6. Estimated costs for the programme are envisaged in range £75k - £100k per year over the programme timescale.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
The target group is excluded, isolated and far from the employment market; requiring interventions and training to be 'work ready'.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Swindon Foyer (part of Stonewater Housing Association)

Contact in organisation

Deborah Schofield, Supported Housing Manager

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 602174 / Deborah.schofield@stonewater.org

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Stonewater is also a registered friendly society and housing association

How many employees do you have?

FT 6 PT 5 Volunteers 1

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Swindon Foyer opened in 1998 to provide short term furnished accommodation and support for homeless young people, 16 – 25 years. It is a space for them to develop independent living skills and take up education, training and employment opportunities. Applicants are mainly from Swindon with a few from Wiltshire. The majority of referrals are through Swindon Borough Council's homeless section but also via Social Services, the Youth Offending and Probation Teams, and other local hostels. The Foyer is staffed 24/7 and includes 2 emergency rooms for street homeless young people.

Our year on year statistics show at least 20 NEET young residents with multiple and complex needs at any one time. In 2013/14 92 young people moved into the Foyer of whom 33 were 16 – 17 years, 20 aged 18 years and thirty nine were 19 – 25. Fifty one percent were female, 11% of BME origin and 21% had disabilities. 57% were unemployed, 25% in education although not always engaging with their course, and 11% on government training schemes. 74% were from low income families, 15% had an offending background, 41% had mental health issues, 39% misused alcohol or drugs, 24% were self harming and 20% had poor anger management skills. Thirty five percent had three or more significant needs.

Each young person is assigned a key worker who supports them to develop and achieve their individual goals for their stay. Support with all aspects of independent living such as claiming benefits, , personal health, cookery, money management and maintaining their accommodation is available; plus referrals to specialist agencies e.g. for substance abuse or counselling. The support service is funded by Swindon Borough Council to enable young people to move on to greater independence.

The Foyer employs a Trainer who meets with each young person to look at their career goals and advise on achieving these; as well as providing an activities programme aimed at developing employability skills e.g. outdoor activities aimed at personal confidence and team working skills, a Job Seeking Breakfast aimed at reducing isolation; as well as individual support with CV writing, work experience placements, local courses and job applications.

The Foyer is based in Old Town and has 57 student style rooms plus shared facilities such as a large Common Room, gardens, training areas and an IT Suite for residents. Residents are encouraged to input into the service through regular meetings and surveys. The Foyer has an established trained team, comprehensive policies and procedures and is Foyer Federation accredited.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We would use funding to build on and develop our existing work by running 4 certificated courses for young NEET



people at the Foyer per annum and we would aim to work with 30 young people per annum in this category.

The courses would have 6 main themes: identification of career aspirations, advice on and support into education and training, CV writing and presentation skills, work experience and voluntary placements, the world of work (contracts, H&S, workplace behaviours, problem solving) and Work and Benefits.

The courses would be provided by a qualified coach through group activities with 1-1 back up. They would also liaise with other relevant Foyer staff to ensure a holistic support package for the young person. We would start each course with a motivational activity aimed at building confidence and team working e.g. raft building and racing and run a celebratory activity when certificates were presented.

We would involve members of the community throughout e.g. talks on the Swindon College apprenticeship programme and different aspects of employment; as well as ensuring low level support through activities such as a weekly Job Search Breakfast.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

As our statistics and service description show the Foyer project fits well into 'Supporting people to take steps into employment, including tackling multiple and complex needs...and in particular supporting young people.' Young people generally move into the Foyer due to some sort of personal crisis. As a result they may have been rough sleeping, sofa surfing or 'kicked out' and are often run down physically and emotionally, and a long way from the labour market and out of touch with normal societal routine.

The Foyer offers a person-centred support package which builds on existing interests, skills and talents in order to motivate and support young people to develop their independence including the ability to support themselves financially and move on successfully. The young person can stay up to two years, or longer where there is a disability, which means that residents can move forward at a comfortable pace for them.

There is an experienced staff team who are trained on subjects such as safeguarding, mental health, substance misuse, suicide and self harming behaviours, ADHD, benefits etc. We have a needs and risk assessment and support planning process which underpins the support service, and all staff have regular formal and informal supervision. There is a comprehensive suite of policies and procedures to give guidance on daily operations.

The Foyer's work very much reflects local priorities. It was developed by SBC as a resource for homeless young people as it was recognised that traditional hostels were not meeting their needs, particularly in respect of employment and moving on to being self supporting. We work closely with local statutory agencies (Housing, Social Services, YOT, Probation, Early Intervention Team) and the Foyer is recognised and supported by many other organisations including the Prince's Trust, Inner Flame, Swindon and New Colleges, BTCV, SWADS and the Foyer Federation who have contributed to our programme.

The Foyer relies on fund raising in order to provide employment related support for service users and we have successfully run grant-funded activities for ESF, ACLF and FF which have included planned programmes, budget development, the completion of financial and monitoring returns and making of reports. We regularly review the activities that we run to ensure that they are relevant to our clients and previous outcomes have shown a good record in helping young people to progress towards and take up employment.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I would be happy to contribute to a strategy group although I am away June 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.





Assessing needs from  
The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation Sovereign Housing Association

Contact in organisation Jon Fisher

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01635 279572          jon.fisher@sovereign.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT      approx. 1,000      PT      Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Sovereign is one of the largest Housing Associations in the country. We own and manage more than 38,000 homes for 86,000 residents. We provide a range of homes at a rent which people can truly afford, with value added services, such as support with employment and training to help our residents achieve their aspirations. We also oversee one of the largest development programmes in the affordable housing sector and we will build around 750 homes every year for the next four years.

We offer our residents support towards finding employment using an approach grounded in Information, Advice and Guidance. It is an entirely voluntary service. Lots of the residents who use the service are long term unemployed and we also support them to sustain employment once in a job. We also support self employment as an outcome utilising the Strive model through our partnership with Enterprise Cube. We also support work with schools supporting financial inclusion working to ensure young people are resilient and prepared to manage their money in the world.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We could extend the reach of our employment and training support, but really we want to be part of the partnership enabling our residents to take advantage of the opportunities it will bring. We are keen to work with other social landlords to ensure openness and ease of access to multi-agency working to support our residents on the programmes.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities It will be part of how the projects access the clients and part of ensuring how they are fully supported while on programmes.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Possibly.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
SWINDON 105.5

Contact in organisation  
Shirley Ludford

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07951 366289 (o) 01793 611555 e-mail: shirleyludford@btinternet.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state: Not For Profit. Registered Company

How many employees do you have?

FT 2 PT 100-120 Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
We provide a totally accessible, inclusive radio service to Swindon. Training and volunteering opportunities currently including 10-73 year olds.

The station is the only dedicated local service; on air 24 hours a day, 24 hours a week.  
We run courses for individuals and communities, projects with schools, provide school, college and university placements, as well as placements for unemployed people.

In brief:-

We work with communities, giving them a voice; we've run targeted projects (eg addressing bullying), worked with addicts in recovery, ex young offenders. Students at risk of exclusion, people with Autism, visual impairment and a wide range of issues from having suffered abuse to depression.

We promote local and live music.

We can carry out outside broadcasts thanks to equipment from a Police & Crime Commissioner grant.

Our service is for Swindon and the surrounding area and open to all.

Programming includes such as: discussion, schools, arts, topical, business, live music, specific music shows, themed weeks on community organisations or specific subjects. We are about inclusion, volunteering, personal development - providing a service to the community on and off air, working with and promoting community groups and initiatives.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We will run courses for young unemployed / disabled people, using the various aspects of Radio to develop individual skills, personal interests and potential, confidence and employability. Outcomes will also include producing programmes for broadcast. Work with individuals in recovery

from addictions, capturing and broadcasting their stories and training them to carry out interviews and features on supportive agencies and capture experiences and positive stories of other individuals.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The Station's ethos fits completely with that of Building Better Opportunities. We have many success stories of personal achievement, including such as: a blind lady has gained part-time paid work after 9 years unemployed, after training in admin at the radio station. A young girl with extreme anxiety issues recently started work with at the GW Hospital following time with SWINDON 105.5.

We would also record with partnership organisations to capture outcomes of their work for broadcast and evidencing.

Funding for such projects will also help towards the sustainability of the community radio station, helping us continue to provide our regionally unique service.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

If this was felt to be helpful.



Assessing needs from  
The National Lottery



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Swindon Academy

Contact in organisation

Helen Beardall- Community Officer

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 426998 / Helen.beardall@swindon-academy.org

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state School

How many employees do you have?

FT200      PT 100      Volunteers 50

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We work with the community around the school to provide convenient access to learning opportunities. We bid for money to provide sessions and look to use funding partner organisations have to offer a venue in the targeted communities of Pinehurst and Penhill.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We have excellent access to end users of the funding; we already work with partners at the colleges and SBC to provide adult learning. We would like to grow this offer.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Providing accessible funded courses directly to people who will benefit from them.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I would consider any invitation.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Swindon Advocacy Movement

Contact in organisation  
Dawn Dixon

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01793 542575, 07454750391

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC / charity

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 9 PT 12 Volunteers 30

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

SAM provides statutory advocacy services under The Care Act, The Mental Capacity Act and The Mental Health Act for people living in Swindon. We also provide an advocacy service for people with learning disabilities and/or Autism to include a specialist service for parents with learning disabilities going through Child Protection proceedings.

SAM was set up in 1995 as a user led organisation for people with learning disabilities and we currently work with members enabling them to develop skills and confidence to become more actively involved in their local community. We run a lottery funded 'Sam Buddies' project where people offer each other peer support to access local leisure, work and volunteering opportunities. We also have a 'Get Connected' computer club where people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods work together to access local information and opportunities through going on-line. Buddies has a membership of over 200 people who have participated in learning new skills e.g. travel training, practical literacy and numeracy for getting out and about in the community.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Through our advocacy and community work we meet many people with learning disabilities who are isolated and lack the skills or confidence to access mainstream training, volunteering or work opportunities. Linked to and learning from our successful SAM Buddies project we could offer training and activities that would enable people to develop life skills and confidence to participate in mainstream training, volunteer or work opportunities. We can offer a friendly supportive environment with small groups and experienced peer support for all. The project could provide

travel training, life skills – e.g. personal hygiene, social skills, practical literacy and numeracy for going out and about. We anticipate that the project would be ideal to encourage and prepare people for formal college training, volunteering or would enable them to take the first steps towards work.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our work fits well with 'Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty' part of ESF. In line with the Swindon and Wiltshire priorities the project will promote social inclusion, moving people furthest from the labour market towards and into employment. We can provide holistic support to move people towards work and use volunteering and peer support as a tool for change. The project would also tackle issues relating to accessibility of opportunities.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes, it would be an interesting experience. I have many years experience of planning for and writing successful funding applications and bids and have experience of working within a consortium.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Swindon Borough Council – Sport Participation

Contact in organisation  
Gladys Barr

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01793 465400  
gbarr@swindon.gov.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state..... : Local Authority

How many employees do you have?

FT 2      PT 2      Volunteers 50

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

The team run a number of health and sport programmes targeting the most disadvantaged and inactive people in Swindon. We focus on those with long term health conditions, inactive, NEETS and those with disabilities

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

In relation to the ESF funding, we run a project called Streetgames Swindon which uses sport as a tool to engagement young people in positive activities either through participation in sport and/or volunteering. We target young people living in deprived areas of Swindon, NEETS and teach them skills to make them more employable.

We work with a variety for organisations in formal and informal partnerships and several of our young people are referral from these agencies such as the Youth Offending team, Inner Flame, Job Centre, Home Tuition service, NHS mental health, SMASH, The Foyer, Youth for Christ, ATB warehouse.

The project won the Project Of The Year at the national Street Games wards in April 2015 and two of our young volunteers have just won national awards.

We run regular sessions including doorstep sport clubs and football sessions as well as events and holiday festivals.



Since November 2013 Street Games Swindon has signed up over 100 young volunteers and supported them in building confidence, employability skills, focus and friends. These fantastic young people have worked hard week in week out supporting their local community on a range of sessions all over Swindon. As a team they have tallied up over 3,500 volunteer hours, helping thousands of Swindon residence.

Further information about the project and case studies of young people can be found here [StreetGames Swindon](#)

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

A major focus for the project is to work with NEET young people to help them turn their lives around and help them gain the skills to gain employment. We have numerous examples of where we have been able to do this.

The project is currently funded by the Reaching Communities fund via that Big Lottery. We are into the 3rd year of a 3 year delivery project and are looking for funding to continue the great outcomes. In year one we demonstrated a 1:4 SROI and the year 2 report will be available shortly. We are expecting this to be higher.

The project currently costs around £100k per year to run

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No, however I do think that the work that we do would fit into any Lead organisations agenda for the cohort of young people we are working with and would be happy to be included in several bids.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Swindon Citizens Advice Bureau

Contact in organisation

Claire Newport

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 402103 manager.swindoncab@cabnet.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity

Other: Please state Company limited by guarantee

How many employees do you have?

FT 8 PT 19 Volunteers 72

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Provision of advice and information helping people to deal with any issue, spanning debt, benefits and employment to immigration, housing and legal plus everything in between. Helping around 8500 people per year.

We operate from 3 permanent sites in Swindon - Swindon Advice and Support Centre (SN1 1QH), East Swindon Citizens Advice, Parks (SN3 2LZ) and North Swindon Advice Point, Pinehurst (SN2 1QR).

Provision of specialist debt, benefits and immigration advice and casework. One to one and group financial capability and budgeting advice.

We manage and operate the main Information Point in Swindon Advice and Support Centre which

is the face to face access point for many services in Swindon including Swindon Carers Centre, Swindon Advocacy Movement, Wiltshire Law Centre, Healthwatch Swindon, Swindon Mind, DHI (Developing Health and Independence) and Swindon Citizens Advice Bureau

We currently support 72 volunteers in a number of roles and look to continuously update their training and knowledge throughout their time with the bureau. We offer a range of volunteer roles including, Information Guide, Adviser, Administrator and Receptionist. We look to take on between 20 - 30 new volunteers a year and provide comprehensive training and support.

Swindon CAB is available for anybody to access.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Advice and information to help remove some of the barriers to work including managing debt and budgeting and tackling tenancy issues. We would offer a targeted approach to providing practical advice and drawing up an action plan with individuals to move them forward.

Provision of volunteering opportunities within CAB and Swindon Advice and Support Centre to build skills and knowledge.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

These two elements will deliver personalised activity which aims to remove practical barriers to employment and offer opportunities to learn new skills or build confidence through supported volunteering in a busy workplace environment.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes Swindon CAB would be happy to contribute where required.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Swindon Dial A Ride

Contact in organisation  
Evelyn Ryder

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01793 617828 transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / **IPS** / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 7 PT 6 Volunteers 30

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We provide safe, accessible, affordable transport for disabled individuals and local community and voluntary organisations. We currently work in Swindon, North Wiltshire and Oxfordshire.

The Dial A Ride services are for people who cannot access existing public transport due to mobility difficulties.

The Community Transport services provide accessible minibus hire for any community or voluntary group, including youth groups, disability groups, churches, social clubs.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We could provide transport for interviews, training courses and employment for participants with disabilities. We may be able to provide volunteering opportunities for suitable candidates.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

If people with disabilities are offered opportunities to participate in projects to help them access employment/training they are not be able to take advantage of them without suitable transport.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Swindon Mind

Contact in organisation  
Mark Smyth FRSA

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01793 432031

What type of organisation are you?

Charity /  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 3 PT 16 Volunteers 25

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Providing Mental health Support services in Swindon. This includes Five Ways to Wellbeing Planning and Coordinator, a community activity programme, Respite and Wellbeing House providing people with mental health disorder two weeks respite stay with wellbeing support and planning. An Employment service supporting people back to work, a self-harm counselling service. Plus our Innovation and Learning Enterprise providing training and workshops including Mental Health First Aid Courses.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership  
Our whole ethos is to work holistically with adults with mental health illness in a solution focussed way. We support people to build on their strengths and skills providing peer support and volunteer opportunities and support into work. Our respite and wellbeing house also provides a unique respite from the stresses of everyday life and work to help build up ones confidence again.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
Supporting peoples' five ways to wellbeing and supporting people into work. We are the one front door into Swindon Mental health Support Services in the third sector in Swindon.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
Yes. We are working with partners in Swindon in pulling together a cohesive pathway for people into work.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
The Nelson Trust

Contact in organisation  
Colin Levine

Contact Details Telephone / email  
07739 851484 colin.levine@nelsontrust.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

~~Other: Please state~~

How many employees do you have?

FT 80          PT 8          Volunteers 20

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

In the community, county-wide, Swindon ISIS Women's Centre supports around 100 vulnerable women each year. We can provide a holistic support service for women in the criminal justice system, vulnerable women experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage, women who have experienced trauma or domestic abuse, and we provide street outreach work for sex workers in Gloucester and Swindon, and also outreach for at-risk teenage girls in rural areas in Glos. Support entails a comprehensive assessment of health, psychological and social needs, developing a personal support plan to address needs, and the provision of a named, dedicated keyworker who works regularly and consistently with each client. Alongside this individual support we run a range of group programmes, including personal development, orientation to learning and employment, life skills, family and relationship issues. We are also just about to begin (July 2015) delivering ETE engagement work inside HMP Eastwood Park for women who will be returning to Wiltshire on release.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Our main areas of interest are the provision of gender-specific services for vulnerable women with multiple needs, and services for those who are in need of support to sustain their recovery from addiction. ISIS can host a range of individual support and group learning and developmental activities for women, and welcomes partnerships and informal collaboration with other VCS providers. We have the capacity to provide a range of ETE activities, including personal development programmes (self-esteem, communication and assertiveness, healthy living), orientation to employment, creative and life skills courses.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our target cohorts are some of the most disadvantaged, excluded and vulnerable people in the county, and those most distant from employability. We know from our experience that with the right support, the fostering of self-confidence and self-belief, our former clients have gone on to achieve a range of qualifications and all kinds of employment.

We feel that our capacity to work with women in a trauma-informed and gender-specific setting is unique in the county and alongside this we bring a passion for addiction recovery backed by thirty years of experience in this field.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Thera Trust

Contact in organisation  
Andrea Moulding

Contact Details Telephone / email

Office 0300 303 1280 / mobile 07734 975705 email [andrea.moulding@thera.co.uk](mailto:andrea.moulding@thera.co.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity - Charity (no 1090163)

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 1138 PT 1064 Volunteers (Varies)

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Thera Group of Companies are led by a charity and support people with a learning disability in their own home and in the community, many with complex needs and underlying mental and long term health conditions.

Despite being part of a large organisation each local company, including Thera South West, is locally governed and managed. Remarkably 40% of our directors have a learning disability and have a real say in how the organisation is run. We believe people with a learning disability can be leaders in society and are committed to giving people the same life opportunities as the rest of the population.

As well as supporting people in the community we successfully run projects to help people set up their own business.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Thera have a proven track record of working with those furthest from the labour market who society has written off as unable to work. We have challenged this through the highly successful Dolphins' Den project, an initiative to help people with a learning disability set up their own business. The project involves a series of non-threatening accessible workshops followed by mentoring from the business community for six months. After this we have a fun interactive celebration event where people, who have taken part in the project, receive an award, can take a stand to showcase their ideas and have the opportunity to present their ideas and progress to the audience. In order that mentors have the skills to work with people with a learning disability we offer training and support throughout the process. We have run three projects in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, Peterborough and Lancashire. Through the programme we have matched 35 mentors with groups or individuals interested in starting their own business and reached over 80



participants. Of these 30% were able to finish the mentoring process.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

The programme aims to reach those who are furthest from the labour market. 75% of people with a learning disability want to work but only 7% actually do. There is limited support for people with a learning disability who have multi barriers to participation. Self-employment, through the Dolphins' Den project, works particularly well for people with a learning disability, as it build on their own skills and interests and allows them to work at their own pace. As well as having tangible outcomes, in terms of people setting up their own business, the project has softer outcomes which can move people closer to employment. We have seen people gain in confidence and self-esteem. Some of the participants have gained skills which have allowed them to go onto volunteering or secure employment. Dolphins' Den provides a unique service which would complement other agencies provision. We are also not tied to buildings so can run the project where there is a gap in delivery or greatest need.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

At this stage we are happy to just be a delivery partner



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Thinking Diversity CIC

Contact in organisation

Tessa Polniaszek

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01380 859032  
TessaPHome@gmail.com

What type of organisation are you? A social enterprise

CIC

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT	PT	Volunteers
1	3	

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

This is a new organisation starting up in the South West, based in Wiltshire and Bristol.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Awareness raising, management consultancy and communications services for partner organisations involved in the project in areas of inclusive neurodiversity practice and communications to enable and remove barriers for customers who are non-neurotypical, in particular those who are dyslexic, dyspraxic, dyscalculic or have Asperger's, visual stress or AD(H)D.

Practical support services and strategy- & personal development coaching and signposting for people in the target group with dyslexia and associated neurodiversity (dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, visual stress, Asperger's, AD(H)D) in their home lives and in self employment, getting back into work, moving on from redundancy or periods of unemployment, making the transition from education into the workplace, and improving employability through the development of strategies in for example, time- and self-organisation management, writing skills, re-steering career in mid- or older- life. An approach based on positivity about diversity and difference, building on strengths and using assistive technology.

Also:

-media production and neurodiverse inclusive communications services for the partnership with

specialism in case study videos and audio research for project engagement, feedback and legacy.  
-the development of stylesheets for neurodiverse inclusive communications.  
- review & editing communications and training materials to be neurodiverse inclusive

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Enables the partnership to have an inclusive approach.

Reaches this disadvantaged group which is more highly represented in unemployment and also often more driven to self employment, but with needs and approach largely not met by existing business support services

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes absolutely



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

**THRESHOLD HOUSING LINK, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1 John Street, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 1RT**

Contact in organisation

**CHER SAWYER SMITH, CEO**

Contact Details Telephone / email

**01793 524661 [cher.sawyer@thl.org.uk](mailto:cher.sawyer@thl.org.uk) [www.thl.org.uk](http://www.thl.org.uk)**

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity (established in 1972)**

Other: Please state: **Company Limited by Guarantee**

How many employees do you have?

**FT 21 PT 9 Volunteers 4**

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

**Providing support, advice and supported accommodation for single homeless men and women aged 16 years and above. Services include Street Outreach, short stay emergency accommodation, short stay substance misuse intensive supported accommodation, young person's intensive supported accommodation, women's supported accommodation, various longer stay supported resettlement accommodation for men, acceptance of Persistent, Prolific Offenders and a rent management scheme with local landlords. All service users compete needs, risk and action planning sessions, progress reviews using the Outcomes Star Toolkit and commence a resettlement programme suitable to their individual needs.**

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

**Potential to develop an in-house AQA training programme to prepare homeless people for education, training or work. This learning unlocks potential and give people the desire to learn and motivate them to achieve. It will be an opportunity for homeless people to gain skills, receive validation for those skills and achievements and present a portfolio that will impress and encourage employers, colleges and training programmes to accept homeless people onto their schemes or into places of work. This will create enthusiasm, motivation, feelings of self worth and value, reduce social exclusion and increase potential to move away from the benefits system and homelessness in general. This training will be a process of continual improvement. We would employ a training officer to lead the programme in-house. Potentially 75 homeless people will be able to access the courses each year. The courses and qualifications are highly valued by employers and universities and enable people to progress to the next stage of their lives by helping who are facing challenges develop their skills and knowledge, increase their self-belief and raise their aspirations.**

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

**Homeless people are stigmatised and far removed from normal training, work and education programmes due to their circumstances, low esteem and self belief in their capabilities. Transient homeless people need reasons to create a sense of permanence and ability to rejoin socially accepted ways of life. The transition from homelessness is tough. Life skills and employability training will enable opportunities to be created and taken up, increase a person's self esteem and feeling of being able to achieve. Employers and places of training or education will receive people who have demonstrated that they can learn, attend courses reliably and have the ability to learn and achieve.**

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

**Yes (if appropriate)**

**Building Better Opportunities**

**Potential Partner Information**

**Name of Organisation**

Viewpoint Community Media see: [www.viewpointcommunitymedia.org.uk](http://www.viewpointcommunitymedia.org.uk)

**Contact in organisation**

Hannah Parry

**Contact Details**

[hannah@viewpointcommunitymedia.org.uk](mailto:hannah@viewpointcommunitymedia.org.uk)

**What type of organisation are you?**

Charity

How many employees do you have?

FT          PT          Volunteers 10

**Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups**

We have a great deal of experience in training and enabling groups and individuals to participate more effectively with life. Amongst our services for example, we operate Swindon Viewpoint ([www.swindonviewpoint.com](http://www.swindonviewpoint.com)), with it's 42 year track record in community engagement.

Community Media is a particularly strong engagement tool with motivational leverage for a broad diversity of participant backgrounds and issues. With our program, participants embark on an enjoyable personal journey wherein they are gradually encouraged to exercise choice and creativity as they learn valuable transferrable skills; - skills that enhance their employability and improve their communication capability and self-confidence. The program and experience works to reverse the effects of prior exclusion.

Our target client groups are essentially those that can benefit from opportunities for skill development for greater social inclusion, personal development and employability.

**Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership**

Our particular offer is that of a highly motivating form of engagement for participants. We have a great deal of experience in this regard and find that with our essentially practical approach participants are almost always thoroughly engaged with, for example, the prospect of being involved in making real television for a large audience, rather than simply in a training exercise. We can thereby offer to partnership a proven training scheme wherein participants can enjoy being creative, see satisfying end results directly from their involvement, and at the same time acquire some of the most important and powerful skills needed to turn their lives around .

We can offer flexible and/or rotating modules with skilled trainer/support staff and custom designed to dovetail with other related training as appropriate. Our highly experienced and skilled governors are able to design and monitor the training programme and oversee the recruitment of appropriate training staff and resources accordingly. We already have a track record of prior successful ESF funding and delivery of such a production-led training process.

**Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities**

Our offer fits perfectly with the BBO remit to tackle the root causes of poverty in lack of social and employment skills, social exclusion and low employment rates.

It is effective both as a 'gateway' or as a consolidation project and it's central value is in improving employability and social skills for the most disadvantaged. It does so by helping those with multiple and complex needs to improve their literacy and skills in organisation, communication, new

technology and related areas; as well as with building the confidence to take these new skills forward.

Our partnership offer is equally suited to both 'gateway' engagement of new participants as well as to extensive development and consolidation of key life skills at later stages.

**Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?**

Yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Voluntary Arts England

Contact in organisation  
Kat Quatermass

Contact Details Telephone / email  
[kat@vaengland.org.uk](mailto:kat@vaengland.org.uk) 07818 028 128

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity** / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

2 Full Time, 7 Part Time (just 1 Part Time in SW England)

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Voluntary Arts England, is the English arm of Voluntary Arts, a UK and Republic of Ireland Charity that exists to promote creative cultural activity, and particularly to support volunteer led groups in increasing their sustainability.

The organisation provides information, advice and guidance in the form of briefing papers, short videos and also face to face advice sessions. It also offers training in areas such as social media, supporting volunteers, how to tutor effectively and in fundraising for voluntary groups. The services are somewhat similar to those provided by area based CVS organisations, but with a specific arts and cultural slant.

We currently have part time development officers in the South West, South East, Midlands and North of England, plus a small team of part time officers based in BBC Radio Stations in the North of England.

Our target clients are all volunteer led arts groups, or community groups looking to deliver arts activities, and we have a current priority for offering targeted support to disabled people, young people and people from areas with high levels of deprivation who wish to engage in arts volunteering.

The project we are proposing for Building Better Opportunities is of a much narrower, delivery focus than our general activity – and offers routes to participation and volunteering for the key client groups that Building Better Opportunities seeks to support.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

Culture Guides first ran as an EU funded initiative with exploratory projects in St Helens, Wales in Faversham, Kent under the auspices of Voluntary Arts, as well as in several European Countries led by our partners.

Levels of involvement in arts and culture can be particularly low amongst members of socially-marginalised communities, including (but not limited to) low-income families in areas of economic deprivation, immigrant communities and isolated older people. At the same time, cultural participation can help to counteract some of the difficulties (such as isolation, poor health, low self-esteem and depression) that these disadvantaged communities have to deal with.

This project sets out to improve access to arts and culture amongst socially-marginalised groups using the idea of 'citizen-helps-citizen', whereby volunteer 'Culture Guides' – supported by local project teams of voluntary-sector and arts facilitators – will act as mentors or guides to help end-users to access arts and culture offerings in their locality.

This may include:

- visits to professional art offerings, including theatre, art exhibitions, concerts, dance performances, culture heritage activities, museums, etc.
- visits to, or participation in, amateur art or voluntary culture activities, such as choirs, theatre, music groups, dancing groups, storytelling, etc.

We see this project as a way for Building Better Opportunities Lead Partners to work with us to connect with a wide range of local cultural groups, bringing those groups into the network delivering the programme as a whole.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

We see Culture Guides as an ideal 'add on' to the more formal training elements of Building Better Opportunities. The volunteer placements within the project could be an ideal stepping stone for Building Better Opportunities clients to put the skills they learn in training into practice, in a supported environment and with the prestige (and opportunities, via mobilities) of being involved in a Europe wide initiative. Conversely, via these volunteers and the 'access to the arts' approach, new hard to reach groups may be engaged, providing an informal route to identify potential participants in other elements of the programme.

We see potential to contribute very strongly to the following aspects of the project outline:

- use of volunteering as a tool for change by establishing access to relevant and sustainable volunteering opportunities,
- identification of individuals for whom self-employment is a realistic option (particularly as self employment as a producer/audience development worker/project manager in the creative industries is a growing area which offers flexible working options)

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Would be happy to support in any way I can, but don't see the Voluntary Arts project as forming the core of an application, rather a supplement to a main training and employment strand.





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Volunteer Centre Swindon

Contact in organisation

Sue Dunmore

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 420557                      manager@swindonvolunteers.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 1                      PT 6                      Volunteers 12

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We provide a universal volunteer brokerage service across Swindon. A drop-in service Monday to Friday to facilitate this . Majority of users of this service have some form of support need or are unemployed.

Provide good practice advice to volunteer involving organisations on all aspects of volunteer management.

Undertake a weekly session at Swindon Advice & Support Centre

Undertake outreach to promote volunteering – especially to areas of deprivation or hard to reach groups.

Run a twice weekly supported volunteering group to people recovering from mental health problems

Administer Involve Swindon , an Employer Supported Volunteering scheme in Swindon

We will engage with any one who wants to volunteer ; we can target services/offering to specific target groups .

We are an NCVO accredited Volunteer Centre.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We can provide support to “clients” to find out about volunteering , help with sourcing a suitable opportunity , support with application process and ongoing support in volunteering

Offer training to potential volunteers

Outreach/awareness raising

Support to volunteer involving organisations on all good practice issues around engaging , managing and supporting volunteers especially those with additional needs.

Helping organisations develop flexible roles that are likely to meet the needs of the project

Offer training around specific topics in volunteer management

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
Meets priority areas indicated by LEP  
Volunteering is part of journey project clients can make  
Previous proven experience of delivering similar projects

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?  
yes



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

Contact in organisation  
Kath Hatton

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01380 831231 [kath.hatton@wbct.org.uk](mailto:kath.hatton@wbct.org.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity /  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?  
FT            PT 2            Volunteers 250-350

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal – working in Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire.  
Anyone can join the Trust and become a volunteer

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership  
We could offer volunteer placements for individuals to work on the canal – variety of outside tasks – clearing scrub, cutting grass, brick laying, labouring, strimming, digging, etc.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities  
It could encourage people to get back into a pattern of working. Comradship, learning new skills

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Possibly – depends on how much time involved.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Wiltshire and Swindon Users' Network

Contact in organisation

Louise Rendle

Contact Details Telephone / email

01380871800 louiserendle.wsun@btconnect.com

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state Not for Profit, limited by Guarantee

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT    11    Volunteers 30+

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

We are a User-led organisation supporting people with physical & sensory impairments. People with mental health experiences, older people and those with Autism or Learning difficulties. We have a membership of over 730 service users and groups across all areas of Wiltshire & Swindon. Our Management Committee is made up entirely of WSUN members who have a diverse range of skills and experiences. We support people to; •bring about change to the services they use •to become involved in the commissioning of health and social care services •raise issues concerning the services they receive •promote good practice •campaign on issues that affect them

We also develop projects to assist service users to increase their skills and in turn their life chances.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

One of the projects we run is Wiltshire Independent Travel Support (WITS) offering initial time limited travel support to individuals (In the service user groups as above) who would like to travel independently on public transport for work, to meet friends, for college or training. The programme is tailor-made for each individual and a travel supporter accompanies the person on their journey until they become confident. We can work on skills like planning a journey, road safety, telling the time, using money or a bus pass and help to build confidence. We have supported over 450 people to become independent travellers in Wiltshire.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Independent Travel is an important aspect in allowing people to access training and work opportunities, many of the people who we support would not be able to consider placements as

they would often have to rely on families and carers to transport them. Travel training not only supports them to learn to travel independently it increases their skills and confidence. The individuals we work with currently are often the furthest from the labour market.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

No, unfortunately I do not have the capacity at present to commit to be a member. Happy to comment on ideas or give feedback.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Wiltshire Council

Contact in organisation

Haylea Asadi - Employment & Skills Team  
Tina West/Judy Vanderpump – Learning in Wiltshire  
James Fortune – Children's Services

Contact Details Telephone / email

[haylea.asadi@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:haylea.asadi@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
[tina.west@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tina.west@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
[judith.vanderpump@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:judith.vanderpump@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
[james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk)

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Public Sector – Unitary Authority (provides all significant local government services to approximately 470,000 residents).

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT            Volunteers

Approximately 10,000 employees  
Hundreds of volunteers - volunteers support many of our services including libraries, social care, youth services, employability work, and family learning.

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

### Employment & Skills Team:

Leads the Employment, Education and Skills remit of the council to support the development a diverse, highly skilled and competitive workforce that meets the needs of employers both now and in the future, whilst developing an inclusive economy. The team is key to ensuring that employers take a central role at the heart of the employment and skills/education system in Wiltshire to drive growth in the Wiltshire economy (both for indigenous businesses and in terms of attracting new business investment). The team also leads the development of a structured and co-ordinated (multi-service/multi-agency) partnership approach to sustained engagement in education, training or work across all age and client groups. The team provides the strategic lead for the Wiltshire Assembly's Action for Wiltshire Programme originally established to mitigate the effects of recession and public sector cuts on Wiltshire's individuals, businesses and communities and securing a strong economic recovery for Wiltshire. The team is key to ensuring co-ordination of activity aimed at driving/accelerating economic growth and supporting people to benefit from the opportunities of economic growth, increasing social inclusion and reducing disadvantage. The team has significant experience of managing and delivering £multi-million national/European grant funded programmes. The team manages/delivers an array of functions/services, projects/programmes, covering the whole Wiltshire LA area around the following education, employment and skills themes:

- Supporting the expansion of access to HE facilities and courses
- Supporting the development of FE, Vocational education and skills development including work-based

- learning, Apprenticeships and Traineeships in Wiltshire
- Routes to employment and career pathway development
- Delivery of free HR & workforce development support for Micro Businesses and SMEs without their own internal capacity/expertise including: Human Resources advice and guidance, Recruitment and induction support, Workforce development and up-skilling support, Future workforce needs planning, Employee engagement and staff retention support, Overall encouragement with good employment practice and Conflict management support. This service is delivered by two experienced HR practitioners having held roles in HR, Recruitment & Training including at management level in a range of companies and sectors. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and professional qualifications including B.Ed Hons in Business Studies, BSC in Psychology, a Post Graduate Diploma in HR & Personnel Management, Diploma in HR Management and continued professional development as members of the CIPD.
- Sector specific skills support for the local economy
- Delivery of engagement/re-engagement activities, individual resilience, life skills
- Delivery of pre-employment support, employability and skills development
- Delivery of employment support and support with retention of employment, up-skilling and career advancement
- Delivery of programmes that co-ordinate and increase employer engagement in education, encourage aspiration, increase employability, develop informal/soft skills, support character education, improve Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG), support enterprise education, Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM), increase progression to higher level learning and attainment

The team has experience and a proven track record of working with the following target client groups:

- Long term unemployed (2 years +)
- Young unemployed/NEET (16 - 24 years)
- Low skilled in deprived wards
- Students/pupils from year 5/6 Primary to Year 13 Secondary and College
- JSA, ESA, IS and UC customers
- Newly employed/labour market returners
- Those wishing to explore/pursue self-employment

The clients we support often present themselves with a wide variety of significant personal and employment related barriers. Many have multiple barriers/conditions. We are experienced in supporting clients with a range of social phobia, mental health issues, learning difficulties/disabilities and physical disabilities and low confidence/self esteem, concerns about coping physically/emotionally etc.

#### **Learning in Wiltshire:**

Learning in Wiltshire is Wiltshire Council's adult learning and development team serving the local community. We deliver a range of learning opportunities across the County including non -accredited Family and inter-generational learning programmes; functional skills in English and Maths; Family ESOL programmes, Apprenticeships; Traineeships; back to work skills and development programmes; a range of qualifications in the subject areas of health and social care, teaching and learning, business admin, customer services, project management, leadership and management, youth work, early years, coaching, safeguarding, food hygiene, ICT etc. We are approved by City and Guilds, the Institute of Leadership and Management and the British Computer Society. We hold the MATRIX standard for the quality of our information, advice and guidance and we hold a Grade 2 (Good) OFSTED rating.

Our learners come from all walks of life and range from those with no qualifications who are just re-engaging with learning to those who wish to gain new skills and qualifications in order to enhance their life, work and career prospects.

We deliver our courses and programmes across the county in a wide range of venues including the workplace, schools, children's centres and community venues.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

#### **Employment & Skills Team:**

There are significant opportunities for further development and expansion of a range of programmes/projects/initiatives that fit with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities including and support the target client groups this funding source aims to support:

- Provision of support for people in their personal development, individual resilience and helping them to start thinking about work. Advice and encouragement to individuals who have low confidence and self esteem and as a result often struggle to engage fully with the services available to them and engage in their communities. A focus on developing confidence, communication skills, personal presentation, assertiveness and resilience. Information and financial support with needs such as transport, childcare, clothing, toiletries, counselling. The aim of this support is to eventually encourage them to think about starting or returning to work or engaging in

some other productive activity such as work experience, volunteering, training etc, with the individuals feeling equipped, confident, in control and happy to embrace the most appropriate opportunity for them.

- Provision of personal development mentoring, job coaching support and assistance with overcoming personal and employment barriers for those who are not currently supported through other initiatives. Mentoring, job coaching and tailored support to address specific barriers e.g. counselling, training, transport, childcare, clothing, combined with a high quality, structured work experience placement.
- Provision of dedicated in-work support services for a period of between 9 months (minimum) and up to 18 months (if individual circumstances change) to employees aged 16+ who have recently gained employment following a period of unemployment or who are new to the workforce (i.e. straight from education) to help them retain their employment, up-skills and advance their careers. This includes wrap around support to help them successfully adapt to the life changes that being in work brings such as coming off of benefits, lifestyle management etc. Support is offered to both the employee and employer to help the individual stay in work for the long term. The level, type and method of support will be agreed on an individual basis. Typical support for individuals will include: emotional support (stress and anxiety, personal and family problems, work related challenges etc), support with financial problems (help moving from welfare to wages, family budgeting, welfare benefits and entitlement, debt and credit problems etc), support with legal enquiries (consumer issues, welfare rights, employment law issues, family and matrimonial disputes etc), job search support (career change, cv and applications, job search techniques, interviewing etc), job retention support (orientation to work/occupation/employer cultures, on-the-job conflict resolution etc), career advancement support (negotiating promotions, interviewing and networking, knowledge and skills development etc).
- Provision of employer engagement to help secure roles, placements etc and overall encouragement with good employment practice including help with setting up new starters, staff induction, training, conflict management/mediation etc. We have a significant reach in terms of Employer Engagement which could be a major contributor to a successful BBO bid. Based within the Economy & Planning Service the Employment & Skills Team is extremely well placed to maximise on the extensive relationships and networks established with the local business community. We have extensive direct experience of working with and engaging employers. In addition to working with employers on a range of employment and skills related initiatives the service is the business face of Wiltshire Council designed to drive and support economic growth in the county.
- Business start-up and self-employment support through the various and extensive Business Support Services managed/funded/delivered by Wiltshire Council's Economy & Planning Service including IMPRESS HR & Workforce Development, Leadership & Management, Sector specific skills support, Business advice/support around entering new markets, innovation, sites/premises and incubation space, information about grants, contract opportunities and supply chain development, £35m broadband programme, low carbon business development, resource efficiency, low carbon construction/renewable, sustainable transport opportunities etc.

### **Learning in Wiltshire:**

Using our existing expertise, both within Community Learning and the Assessor team, then we could put together a package which would support the most hard to reach to develop the key skills needed to be able to take part in/be part of society in the 21st century.

We envisage offering a pathway through the BBO project, and our programme would be towards the end of the route, following work of other partners in engagement with more creative/practical type programmes. Our programme would consist of a number of modules depending on the needs of the learner covering:

- Functional skills English and maths and possibly ESOL (from Entry level to Level 2)
- IT skills incorporating social media etc
- Employability skills
- Job related qualifications which might include food hygiene, ICT etc (using bite size unit accreditation rather than longer programmes that people may find it difficult to engage with)

The benefits of this type of approach would be:

- Real partnership working providing a complete learning journey
- Learner centred flexible approach
- An extension and enhancement of an already tried and tested model
- Complete flexibility in terms of venue – not restricted by location of learning centre
- Quality provision endorsed through Ofsted

Additionally, the family learning programme covers a whole range of learning opportunities for parents and carers working with their children to build confidence and encourage inter-generational learning and development. This approach could be further developed and expanded through the BBO opportunity perhaps for some of the harder to reach who are parent. This would likely involve an approach based on non accredited, fun activities designed to support both the children's and parents/carers skills in relation to learning and skills development. We can offer a range of craft based activities, story box, financial literacy, healthy eating, cooking from scratch, digital animation etc. There is scope and opportunity to be really innovative with this.



**Children's Services:**

Additionally, there is a huge desire/appetite from Wiltshire Council to explore collaborative working through the BBO opportunity to pilot new activity that drives innovation in this agenda area along with a focus of early intervention/prevention. We are also especially keen to explore with partners how the BBO fund could Innovative activity to improve education, employment and skills outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers and support the further development and expansion of Supported Internships. Supported Internships are personalised study programmes based primarily at an employer's premises. They are designed to better enable young people with severe learning difficulties and/or disabilities to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for the workplace. For the young person, the internship should contribute to their long-term career goals and fit with their working capabilities. For the employer, the Internship must meet a real business need, with the potential of a paid job at the end of the programme of study, should the intern meet the required standard.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Hopefully this will be clear from the information provided above.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Haylea Asadi would be very happy to contribute as a member of the Strategy Group.



The National Lottery



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

Wiltshire Law Centre.

Contact in organisation

Richard Hazell & David Hocken.

Contact Details Telephone / email

01793 486926. richard.hazell@wiltslawcentre.co.uk.

What type of organisation are you?

Charity / CIC / JPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 2 PT 3 Volunteers 5.

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Advice and representation on Housing, Benefits & Debts. Swindon and surrounding area. Home visits are possible. No specific client group - just people who are referred to us for specialist legal advice.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We can provide a "holistic legal health check" of any applicant to the project to ensure that they are correctly claiming appropriate benefits & are correctly & sustainably housed, so as to maximise their potential for gaining employment.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

We specialise in working with the poorest section of the local community - many of our clients have complex needs very similar to the requirements of the BBO project.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

Yes. David or I attached.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Wiltshire Mind

Contact in organisation  
Carolyn Beale

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01225 706532 carolyn.beale@wiltshiremind.co.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity  
Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT   10            Volunteers 23

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Wiltshire Mind is an independent mental health charity which works to provide support and advice to those suffering from mental illness. We have 6 support groups across Wiltshire and also provide 1-1 counselling from our head office in Melksham.

The groups are held in Salisbury, Melksham, Trowbridge, Malmesbury, Devizes and Chippenham

In addition we have worked on projects supporting carers, military etc but our main area of work is anyone with a mental health issue.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

As above

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Through our groups, people are better placed to be confident and take up new opportunities such as volunteering or work. We could work with others to provide support.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

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# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Wiltshire Scrapstore

Contact in organisation  
Jane Wheeler

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01249 730011 email: jane@wiltspay.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity** / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT            PT 17            Volunteers 72

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups  
Our main focus as a charity is to divert as much waste from going to landfill as possible. These resources are made available to the community of Wiltshire through our large warehouse known as the Scrapstore.  
We offer a number of other services:  
Educational/creative workshops in schools, community groups, care homes and at the Scrapstore  
A café  
A craft shop  
Birthday parties  
  
We also offer supported volunteer work placements for adults furthest removed from the work force. This can be for a variety of reasons including, social, emotional, physical and or mental health, to name but a few.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We could bring a large number of supported volunteer work placements to this partnership. We have the experience and expertise to work with adults deemed furthest removed from the workplace for any number of reasons, but including those listed above. We have a variety of extremely practical work placements that can enable an individual to gain real life work experience which can be listed on a CV for a future employer to see.  
These placements include:  
1. Working in our café to learn how to use a Barista coffee machine to make lattes, cappuccinos, americanos etc. They will also learn how to prepare and serve food, undertake a food hygiene training programme and how to take orders and process these

through a till.

2. Working in our warehouse, learning how to source materials, replenish, tidy and maintain stock records and levels. Undertaking training in manual handling and safe working practices.
3. Working in our retail craft shop, learning how to work with customers, maintain stock levels, undertaking regular stock checks, pricing and displaying items, using a cash register and card machine for payments.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

This fits perfectly with the Building Better Opportunities requirements as one of the biggest requirements is based on working with those furthest removed from the workplace and enabling individuals to gain experience based on their abilities and needs through volunteering work placements. Such work placements will build confidence as well as skills and ensure that a strong work ethic is developed to enable an individual to apply for paid work with a reference from us.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

I would like to be considered.



# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Contact in organisation  
Michele Gard

Contact Details Telephone / email  
01380 736088 micheleg@wiltshirewildlife.org

What type of organisation are you?

**Charity** / CIC / IPS / Partnership / PLC /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

FT 36 PT 12 Volunteers 1507

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

Conservation – providing volunteering opportunities (regular and one-off), training and work placements throughout Wiltshire and Swindon. We work with individuals, local communities and a range of target groups including those with disabilities, veterans, dementia, elderly rurally isolated, those recovering from addiction and ex-offenders.

Wellbeing (adults) - currently working with adults in Wiltshire only (due to limited resources). We deliver a proven nature-based therapy programme over a six month period for those suffering from a range of mental health issues and those caring for these individuals.

Wellbeing (young people) – working with young people who are excluded or disengaged from education, or who have a range of special educational needs. We provide a forest schools based programme during term time including the John Muir Award.

Repair Academy: based in Calne and providing skills and training for NEETS

Forest Schools Training: we are a recognised NOCN trainer for Forest Schools.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

We can provide unique and proven programmes using nature-based activities in a safe environment which enable marginalised, vulnerable and isolated individuals to engage with nature.

We can also provide volunteering and training opportunities for adults and young people.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

All the activities we are offering can be used to move target groups towards or into work.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

We would be happy to do this.





# Building Better Opportunities

## Potential Partner Information

Name of Organisation

WEA- SW (Workers' Educational Association - South West Region)

Contact in organisation

Philip Kiberd - Projects

Contact Details Telephone / email

1 Bradninch Court, Castle Street, Exeter, EX4 3PL 01392 457300 pkiberd@wea.org.uk

What type of organisation are you?

Charity /

Other: Please state

How many employees do you have?

6FT                      17PT                      100 Volunteers

Please give a brief description of the work you currently do, where you work, and your target client groups

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is a charity and voluntary sector provider of high quality, student-centred and tutor-led education for adults from all walks of life, with a special mission to provide educational opportunities to adults facing social and economic disadvantage.

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is committed to widening participation and education with a social purpose. We work across UK through regional offices and local branches delivering learning in over 2,000 community venues in partnership with other local providers and services. We strive to adapt our services to meet people's needs taking education to where it is needed, amongst the local community, rather than expecting people to come to us. WEA courses can be set up almost anywhere; in clubs, community centres, village halls, schools, pubs or where people work. We deliver courses to over 60,000 learners each year. WEA-SW works across the south-west region, including Swindon & Wiltshire. We have an active branch in Swindon, one of the oldest WEA branches in the country.

Brief description of the project you could bring to the partnership

WEA-SW is able to offer flexible and adaptable provision of adult learning with experience of working with disadvantaged groups, support for those in drug, alcohol rehab and mental health recovery, as well as support for disability learners. Project areas we can offer include basic skills, cross-sector working bringing disadvantaged learners into contact with specialist areas of expertise, mentoring and one-to-one support through volunteer and tutor peer engagement. We can bring outdoor learning project work using the John MUIr Award to facilitate achievement, confidence building and validating individual actions for communities. We can also replicate models of ESOL and learning disability provision supporting groups to develop their own self-sustaining learning circles and small social enterprise initiatives.

Please explain how this fits with the requirements for Building Better Opportunities

Our fits with BBO is in respect of promoting social inclusion through giving the tools to improve people's physical and mental health, get them 'job-ready' and identify and overcome barriers to employment and income generation.

Would you want to be a member of a Strategy Group working on an application?

We would be happy to input, but in the first stance put ourselves forward as a potential delivery partner.