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A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

Project Title The Workplace Initiative, ACE – Access to Choices and Employment
Project Sponsor South Lanarkshire Council

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

The project was developed by a robust partnership forged between all the key strategic partners within South Lanarkshire: Careers Scotland , Blantyre/ North Hamilton SIP, South Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire, Employment Service, Council for Voluntary Services and community members.

The project was developed and established for three underpinning reasons:

1. The need for a robust delivery arm within the Blantyre/ North Hamilton to progress the 'Working and Learning' theme of the SIP strategy.
2. The need to deliver these services on a hub and spoke basis due to the geographical lay out of the SIP area. The hub being Burnbank Centre and the spokes being satellite offices in each SIP area.
3. The need to regenerate the central SIP area of Burnbank which is the main transport hub for the SIP.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To renovate a listed building within the Burnbank area of Blantyre/ North Hamilton SIP to house an integrated job access and life long learning facility which would act as a hub of job access activities for the entire SIP area.

The building aimed to house The Workplace Initiative and Libraries comprising of two IT learning suites with internet access, one-to-one counselling rooms, job search space and outreach worker space. It also aimed to link with future local developments to house crèche facilities and further training space.

The aim was to engage with excluded 'workless' SIP residents. The building aimed to offer a visual focal point for the job access element of the regeneration process within the SIP as well as act as a centre from which peripatetic workers and counsellors would reach out into the other SIP areas to engage individuals currently excluded from statutory services for the unemployed.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Intensive outreach and marketing activities to engage with excluded individuals. This was often undertaken through partner agencies such as Social Work adult services, family centres and criminal justice, Employment Service, Mental health agencies, Addiction agencies and the community forums.
2. Alcohol and drug counselling in relation to increasing access to employment and training.
3. Careers advice
4. 'First step' interventions such as confidence building, core skills development and introduction to information technology.

5. Introduction to growth sectors of the economy

PROJECT STRUCTURE

It is impossible to separate the renovation of the Burnbank Building without reference to the services delivered by The Workplace Initiative. The Workplace Initiative is a charity status organisation limited by guarantee which was established in June 2001 by all the key strategic partners in the area. The board is comprised of The Council, Enterprise Company, Careers Scotland, CVS, Employment Service, South Lanarkshire College, the SIP and two community reps. The services are then delivered by 11 staff in the four areas of the SIP the centre of which is Burnbank. The bid for the building renovation was lead by South Lanarkshire Council who own the building and they in turn will offer the building to The Workplace Initiative on a peppercorn rent. The ERDF bid was supported by an ESF bid called ACE- Access to Choices and Employment which funds the intensive outreach and marketing, one-to-one advisor support and short introductory courses in IT, core skills and growth sectors of the economy. ACE commenced in April 2002. The building itself is due for completion in November 2002.

PROJECT FINANCE – Renovation of Building to house The Workplace Initiative

Funding Partners	South Lanarkshire Council - Education Regeneration Services Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire Blantyre/ North Hamilton SIP
Total Costs	£703,351
Eligible Costs	£655,342
ERDF support	£327,670

PROJECT FINANCE – ACE – Access to Choices and Employment

Funding Partners	South Lanarkshire Council - Education Regeneration Services, Community Fund Blantyre/ North Hamilton SIP, Communities Scotland
Total Costs	£190,665
Eligible Costs	As above
ESF support	£85,798

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
Total sqm of training/learning facilities created	315	315	100.00%
No of gross new jobs created in areas defined as most in need	10	10	100.00%
No of gross new jobs directly related to environmental activity	3	3	100.00%
Total no of gross new jobs created	10	10	100.00%