



Project Delivery- April 2007

Investing in Communities

in

Cambridgeshire

**‘Building approaches to mainstreaming
through sharing good practice and innovation’**

Summary



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Introduction: liC - delivering to meet local needs across Cambridgeshire

Introduction

liC Cambridgeshire is a dynamic and innovative programme that aims to help and support the most deprived people and communities in the county, by improving their skills to assist them into employment. It is a regional programme that is fully funded by the East of England Development Agency.

The aims of the liC programme are to:

1. Support young people in transition from school, economically inactive adults and adults without qualifications into further education, employment or training.
2. Address barriers to employment, skills and enterprise for black and minority ethnic communities and those with a work limiting illness.
3. Encourage enterprise through work with disadvantaged groups in the most deprived communities.

Background

The first investments in the programme were made in 2005/06, but major investment commenced in 2006/07. In total, 14 projects were supported in the first full year of the programme, with a total budget of £1.4m.

Recently EEDA awarded a further £2.6m for 2007/08 which will continue to support the overall aims of the liC programme. 22 projects are planned for 2007/08, consisting of a mixture of ongoing and new projects.

The liC investment has influenced other funding partners and over time it is hoped will convince a range of other organisations to shift their priorities to enable investment in appropriately performing areas.

Evidence

The investment programme for 2007/08 has been developed through a series of Task and Finish Group workshops where partners assessed needs and identified gaps, and builds on the extensive evidence base which is the foundation for the programme. In 2006 Roger Tym and Partners and the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion were commissioned to determine the needs of Cambridgeshire in respect of broad social exclusion issues. Their work involved drilling down and mapping eighteen different aspects of deprivation which variously effect a range of communities of interest and place.

The evidence base highlighted that Cambridgeshire is generally seen as successful and prosperous in comparison with other sub-regions in the East of England, but that significant inequalities persist. There are 16 specific areas suffering a raft of multiple deprivation – concentrated variously in Wisbech, Huntingdon and Cambridge City

itself. In addition the county does have a general north-south divide with some very rural areas suffering very poor access to services.

Inevitably there are also a raft of target communities of interest which experience disadvantage and discrimination where some focused investment is essential. This includes Travellers & Gypsies, Migrant Workers, wider BME communities, economically inactive adults, those young people not in education, employment or training; disabled people; lone parents and others locked into caring responsibilities amongst others.

Inevitably resources are insufficient to meet all needs and investment has been made to try and optimise impact whilst not shying away from trying to help those farthest away from social inclusion. Partners worked hard to determine solutions which address social exclusion for many sections of society and these initial priorities emerged with the key focus being across Skills, Employment and Enterprise as essential building blocks to enable progress to be made in tackling poverty.

Delivery

The following brief summaries are an attempt to provide you with a flavour of what the programme is delivering across Cambridgeshire. They have been broadly grouped into areas around Employment, Enterprise and Skills but it is inevitable that there is much cross over and interdependency and it is recognised these are in some ways artificial divides. Contact details are provided to enable any particular interest to be followed through in more detail and it is hoped this may prove very beneficial to future collaborative working.

The project investment will also be detailed on the web site of the Greater Cambridge Partnership www.gcp.uk.net where updates will be made quarterly.

To find out more with the potential to get involved contact
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Project Summaries:

Skills: Romsey Mill



Romsey Mill engages with hard-to-reach young people that may have struggled with school, work and education; had difficult backgrounds; or may be young parents. By nurturing key life and vocational skills in areas such as literacy, the five core Romsey Mill programmes give individuals the confidence and capabilities to take a more active role to progress to the workplace and fully participate in their wider community.

liC supported the redevelopment of Romsey Mill, with £325,000 capital in 2006/07. The building work was completed in January 2007 and provides 50% more space for community facilities in the heart of the city's Mill Road area. New facilities include meeting, workshop and training rooms, offices, a sports hall, recording studio, creative arts room and spacious community hall plus crèche.

liC is also part funding a new full-time programme manager to support the expansion and future sustainability of Romsey Mill's programmes. Revenue support will continue in 2007/08.

Status

The Centre reopened in January 2007 and so far the project has assisted 47 people to get a job and 208 people in skills development ranging from entry-level workshops on music and photography to literacy and vocational skills. Romsey Mill has been successful in negotiating mainstreaming of the Children's Centre.

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Skills: Vocational Skills Centres (NEW for 2007/08)



Increased access to high quality vocational provision is a top priority for Cambridgeshire's secondary schools and a crucial ingredient in countywide strategies to reduce the number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training). In 2007/08 liC will invest £250,000 in collaborative vocational centres based in the five areas of greatest socio-economic need and skills shortage in the county.

liC capital investment will complement investment from the Learning and Skills Council in five vocational centres spread across 11 school sites as well as leveraging in funding from the County Council and the schools and colleges themselves. The project will enable all 11 schools to provide an increased range of vocational courses to students aged 14-19 from September 2007. In the first year the focus will be on setting up courses and targeting students at risk of becoming NEET, with plans to extend the provision to adult learners in year two.

The collaborative model particularly benefits students in rural areas, enabling schools to offer a broader range of vocational courses than they could individually, and removing the need for students to travel to Cambridge or Peterborough to access provision. In 2007/08 the following collaborative vocational centres will be supported offering catering, construction and engineering courses at levels one and two.

- Huntingdon - St Peters & Hinchbrooke Schools (Catering)
- North East Cambridge: Chesterton & Manor Community Colleges (Construction)
- Ramsey: Abbey College (Engineering)
- Fenland: Neale Wade, Sir Harry Smith & Cromwell Community Colleges, Queen's School Wisbech (Construction)
- East Cambridgeshire: City of Ely & Witchford Community Colleges (Construction)

The Cambridgeshire liC Business Plan 2007-11 commits a proportion of each year's capital expenditure to enhancing vocational skills provision in the county, enabling the County Council and schools to take a long term strategic approach to planning investment.

Status

The project has been approved and work on school sites will start in early April 2007.

Contact

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Skills: St Neots Space for Creativity (NEW for 2007/08)

The liC programme is contributing £300,000 capital to this £1.3 million investment in one of Cambridgeshire's largest towns, where employment opportunities have been hit hard by the recent closure of two large employers.

'Space for Creativity' will provide:

- 6,000 sq feet of Enterprise Space for Creative Industries located within the Longsands College campus in St Neots which has specialist status for Media, Technology and English
- 6 incubator units and communal workspaces with flexible tenancy agreements
- meeting rooms and central networking spaces
- mailbox, telephone and reception facilities
- high specification broadband and ICT

The range of support offered by the project includes:

- one to one start up business support
- specialist advice on commercialisation of ideas, marketing, finance and business planning
- creative industries network support
- learning and training opportunities, enabling sharing of facilities which will provide a business focus for students and the community
- links with Higher Education providers and employers in Cambridge and elsewhere

Status

This flagship project will help boost growth and regenerate surrounding areas by contributing to local employment and enterprise development and reducing out commuting from the town.

Most importantly it will help young people access opportunities and raise career aspirations and co-ordinate partners' approaches to skills development and employment growth in the town. In overall terms it will help address the current imbalance between employment and housing growth in the district of Huntingdonshire.

Space for Creativity has secured planning consent and very recently tendered costings have been received. The facility is scheduled to open in late summer 2008.

Contact

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Skills: Ramsey & Wisbech Learning Communities



In Wisbech and Ramsey low educational attainment and poor basic skills levels, combined with a culture of low aspirations, are limiting opportunities for local people. “Learning Communities” are being established in both towns to foster enthusiasm to participate in learning and improve the skills of local people. Working with the community through newly established local partnerships, the project is delivering a blend of learning opportunities to unlock talent, raise aspirations and develop skills required by local employers.

Key to the success of both projects is the engagement of the local community. In both Wisbech and Ramsey volunteer Learning Champions are being recruited and trained to help deliver the aspirations of the project. Learning Champions work in their communities to spread the word about learning and skills opportunities and help local people to access them. In Wisbech six Learning Champions are active in the community with at least eight more awaiting training. In Ramsey six Champions are trained and active with a further nine eager for training. The projects have also delivered a range of skills sessions over the year ranging from introduction to the internet, to English and Pottery tasters. It is anticipated the investment will assist at least 80 people in skills development.

Status

In 2006/07 the focus of the Learning Community projects has been to develop local Neighbourhood Learning Partnerships and Learning Champions to lead on the development and marketing of learning activities in both towns. In 07/08 the focus will be on embedding the partnerships and the infrastructure of Learning Champions so that they can continue without liC support. The Cambridgeshire liC Business Plan commits funding to develop and roll out the Learning Communities project across the county over the next four years. In 2007/08 roll out of the project on a small scale will begin in Chatteris, Littleport and St Neots, laying the groundwork for greater investment in these towns in 2008/09.

2007/08 will also see complementary capital investment in learning facilities at the new Ramsey Library and at Chatteris Library. Work starts on the new library for Ramsey in the coming year and liC investment will enhance the learning aspects of the plans. In Chatteris investment in part of the library building freed up by the relocation of Fenland District Council services will enable much-needed IT training facilities in the town. Further capital investment to support the roll out of the Learning Communities will be made over the life of the business plan.

Contact

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Skills: New Horizons lap top loan scheme (NEW for 2007/08)

The exciting New Horizons project will use ICT as a way of engaging hard to reach groups, helping people to transform their life chances by providing an affordable lap top with home tuition and advice on training and work.

The deliverers, Cambridge Housing Society, have successfully road-tested the New Horizons approach with their own tenants in the county achieving impressive outcomes. By working with other social housing providers, partners and other liC projects, the project will be extended to reach a much wider audience.

The New Horizons project uses the opportunities presented by ICT, to enable those who are hardest to reach to overcome personal, institutional, resource and geographical barriers to training and work.

Using ICT enables the project to reach people who would otherwise miss out on training because of poor transport (particularly in rural areas), caring responsibilities or self-exclusion. The key elements of the New Horizons package of support are:

- advice on learning and work helping people identify where they want to get to and the options for getting there, plus support and mentoring along the way
- access to ICT equipment and the internet through loan of a lap top and opportunities to buy low cost equipment.
- home tuition on ICT, literacy and numeracy

The project will complement a range of other liC projects in particular the Learning Communities project, work with Travellers and disabled people and potentially the Rosmini Centre.

Status

Cambridge Housing Society has submitted an application for liC funding with delivery due to start in July 2007.

An independent consultant able to draw on national expertise -Citizens On Line - is currently working with Cambridge Housing Society to look at ways of making the project sustainable in future. This cost-recovery work will inform the potential for rolling-out the project beyond Cambridgeshire to other parts of the Eastern Region.

Contact

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Skills: Slivers of Time (NEW for 2007/08)

'Slivers of Time' is the name for a web based recruitment package providing a database of people, their skills and their availability for flexible working. The package enables employers to meet short-term demands by employing temporary staff quickly and efficiently. It also enables employees to sell their time by the hour at times suitable to them.

The project group (consisting of the local authorities and other interested agencies) will be exploring the option of setting up a social enterprise recruitment agency as a way of providing a sustainable income stream to further support and develop 'Slivers of Time' and its employees.

The project will:

- Support the economically inactive or underemployed – single parents, people with disabilities, migrant workers, young people, those with caring responsibilities, semi retired people;
- Encourage enterprise – start up businesses can lower staff overheads, voluntary sector human resources support via flexible employment, and local employment for local people.
- Address the liC skills agenda by enabling people to study and work according to their lifestyles and needs. It is envisaged that the website will be linked to agencies with an interest in these areas.

Status

The Slivers of Time project has been successful in obtaining a small amount of EEDA funding to complete market research/ feasibility and ensure that the links between learning and employment are strong. The results of this research will be available in April 2007.

The intention is to start the project in April. Currently the project group is mailing out to businesses that may be interested in using 'Slivers of Time' to meet their recruitment needs. An event has been planned for April 25th for people to come along and find out more about the scheme and what it could offer to them.

New Link and Peterborough PCT have expressed an interest in using the technology to explore the possibility of providing direct services to people using their social care services/ migrant workers. The Slivers of Time project could add value to a whole range of liC projects in particular the Learning Communities project, the New Horizons lap top loan scheme, the Rosmini Centre for migrant workers in Wisbech and many more.

Contacts

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Employment: Travellers Learn & Earn Advocacy Project (LEAP4T)



The Learn and Earn Project for Travellers is an innovative approach to helping Travellers boost their skills and confidence and overcome barriers to entering work. Delivered through an advocacy framework, the project supports members of the Travelling communities to find out about and access the services they need to help them achieve their personal goals and move towards employment. Run by a mixture of Traveller and non-Traveller employees and volunteers the project successfully involves Traveller communities and has achieved a unique credibility with users and potential users of the service.

The range of support offered by the project includes:

- helping people to stabilise their lives by finding or keeping homes
- obtaining driving licenses and peddlers licenses
- helping people compile CVs and complete job applications
- providing information in accessible formats about how to set up in business

The project works closely with the Traveller Skills Training Project to provide a seamless service.

Status

The project has gone from strength to strength since its launch at Watton Horse Fair in September 2006, with very positive feedback from the Travelling communities and a great deal of interest in the project. 75 travellers have already been assisted to get a job by the Advocacy Service and a number of capacity building initiatives have been undertaken to engage the community and build links with service providers, ensuring services are more accessible to Travellers. Examples include a group of Travellers helping a local community radio station to develop appropriate programming for the Travelling Communities, a motor biking session at The Gauntlet with four young Travellers and a dialogue session between young Travelling people and the UN Rights of the Child.

A joint conference with the Traveller Skills Training Project will be held in April 2007 to disseminate good practice from both projects and to engage a wide range of service providers in dialogue about improving the accessibility of services to Travellers. This is an excellent platform for the continuation of the project in 2007/08.

Contact

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Skills: Traveller Skills Training Project

The Traveller Skills Training Project supports adult Travellers across Cambridgeshire to access training that will enhance their employment opportunities. The project also aims to develop awareness of the needs of Traveller learners amongst mainstream providers, ensuring the impact of the project is felt well beyond the period of liC funding. Delivered by experienced members of the County Council's Traveller Team for Education, the project builds on existing relationships with training providers and members of the Travelling communities.

Many Travellers in work have low literacy, numeracy and IT skills, limiting the range of opportunities available to them. Many Traveller women do not work outside the home and their interests lie in gaining skills to bring in income in ways that don't conflict with the Traveller lifestyle. Despite enthusiasm to develop new skills Travellers are often unable or unwilling to access existing training courses for a variety of reasons. Among these are lack of confidence, fear of racism, lack of knowledge of what is available and often low literacy and numeracy. This project works with training providers and Travellers to deliver training tailored to Travellers' needs in appropriate settings whether that be at home, in local community venues or educational establishments.

Status

The project has had a successful first year, exceeding targets to support 71 people in skills development despite a late start. In 2007/08 the project will continue to deliver skills training but with more focus on embedding the benefits of the project. Building on the joint conference with the Learn and Earn Project there will be more work with learning providers to improve the accessibility of training to Travellers. The project will also pilot a scheme to develop peer mentors, working with members of the Travelling communities engaged in the project and providing training for them to support their peers to access training.

Contact

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Employment: Engaging Employers II



Engaging Employers improves job prospects for disabled people who face barriers to obtaining or retaining employment. By developing in-depth relationships with large employers the project will work to change organisational cultures and in the longer term create an accessible job market for disabled people in the county. Delivered by the Papworth Trust the project complements existing Papworth programmes and the LiC funded Work4You project.

In its first year the project has worked closely with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council, delivering a series of staff workshops on attitudes towards employing disabled people and the business case for doing so.

A referral network to notify disabled people of suitable job vacancies has been set up between these organisations, Papworth Trust and other partner organisations working with the client group. Supplementing this work a programme of one-to-one consultation meetings with Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) will be delivered.

The aim of the consultations is to create a disability friendly business culture by offering practical advice and guidance on issues around employing disabled people.

Status

Negotiations have now begun with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service, Addenbrookes Hospital and Anglian Water, to join the project. In 2007/08 these relationships will be further developed and contact will be made with more major employers.

In addition a do-it-yourself toolkit is currently being developed for employers to assist them in creating a disability confident culture in their organisations and to raise awareness of the benefits of employing disabled people. This toolkit will be a sustainable legacy from the project adding value to the face-to-face work.

Contact

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Employment: Work4You



The Work4You project improves training and employment prospects for disabled people falling into the gap between Local Authority and Jobcentre Plus employment services. Many in this group have no experience of work and lack self-confidence and skills. The project helps participants develop the skills they need for the workplace, offers ongoing support and guidance and valuable work experience through an eight-week work placement.

The main target group is adults with Learning Disabilities although the project does not exclude individuals outside this group who could benefit. The project runs a number of Job Clubs around the county delivering training on a range of workplace skills. These include interview skills, confidence and self esteem building, team working, personal presentation and social skills.

Job Club participants also receive support in Basic Skills and information, advice and guidance from a Connexions worker. After completing the Job Club programme, a suitable work placement is sought to match the interests and skills of the participant. At the end of the full programme (16 weeks in total) some participants will go into paid work, others into further work experience and some will progress to further training and a qualification.

Status

In 2006/07 four job clubs have been run with a total of 62 participants, of whom almost 20 are in further work experience, voluntary or permitted work. Although the proportion of participants moving into work is small the project recognises this will be a long-term goal for some. Furthermore referral routes have been established with Connexions, Jobcentre Plus and Social Services.

Delivery will continue in 2007/08 and a sustainability plan for the continuation of the project beyond the period of liC funding will be developed.

Contact

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Employment: Retain & Regain

This exciting and innovative project will test the effectiveness of a new specialist service to support people with mild mental health difficulties back into work.

In Cambridgeshire around 38% of Incapacity Benefit claimants have mild mental health problems and that proportion is growing. The Retain & Regain project employs three specialist advisers based in GP practices, to support patients with a mental health diagnosis to get back to work if they have a job or to move into work if they are claiming benefits.

The three employment advisers are currently covering six GP practices, two in South Cambridgeshire, two in Huntingdon and two in Fenland. Experience may prove the need to engage with more General Practices over time to secure more referrals. The advisers work with patients referred by the GP, in the practice, helping them to get into work and providing on going support once they are back in the workplace.

The pilot is overseen by the Mental Health Steering Group for the county and has huge potential to influence local and even national implementation of the Jobcentre Plus "Pathways to Work" programme. Jobcentre Plus are involved with and very supportive of the approach being undertaken.

"Pathways to Work" which will be introduced in Cambridgeshire in September 2008, has the principal aim of reducing the number of people moving on to Incapacity Benefit. So far the evidence around appropriate intervention for claimants with mental health difficulties is limited and this pilot could fill an important gap in the knowledge-base.

Status

Two employment advisers have been in post since January 2007 and the third adviser started in March. In total seven people have already been supported, of whom one has successfully retained their job! The project will run until at least March 2008 and could be extended to bridge the gap between the end of the project and the implementation of "Pathways to Work" in September.

An independent evaluation of the project is being commissioned to feed into the roll-out of the Pathways programme.

Contact

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Employment: The Rosmini Centre, Wisbech (NEW for 07/08)

The investment in the Rosmini Centre aims to provide:

- A refurbished hall and private rooms where the migrant worker and local communities can meet
- A development worker/ co-ordinator who will manage the facilities and broaden services provided to enable the development of multi-agency services
- A range of broadband and ICT facilities

The range of support offered by the project will include:

- Confidential meeting rooms
- 'Welcome Packs' containing general advice and information (as produced by Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and others)
- Specialist advice on housing, employment opportunities etc
- Access to additional translation services – currently Polish and Portuguese only
- Learning and training opportunities for the whole community including new arrivals
- Links with Further Education providers and employers in Wisbech and surrounding areas

Status

The Rosmini Centre is currently the focus for a range of activities helping the families of migrant workers to access services. Building on the strength of much goodwill and a strong team of volunteers, liC Investment in the Centre will provide more structured support for migrant workers living and working in Wisbech and the rural hinterland. The employment of a development worker for the Centre will enable better co-ordination of activities to support migrant workers, increased engagement of service providers with the Centre and a higher profile for activities supporting this community.

Currently the extent of building refurbishment/enhancement is being evaluated in light of the requirements of planning and building regulation consents and the available budget.

The person specification for the development worker is being finalised. Advertisements will be placed shortly and it is expected to have someone in post by July 2007.

Contact

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Rosmini Centre Trust

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Employment: Bangladeshi community project (NEW for 2007/08)



An image from a previous project working with the Bangladeshi Community

This project aims to address cultural barriers to training, employment and enterprise faced by the Bangladeshi community in Cambridge, in particular by women. The project will provide;

- Non-threatening environments enabling Bangladeshi Women to mix and pursue activities which generate income
- A support programme which helps identify and develop peer champions who have been able to pursue a range of routes to progression including training, employment, social enterprise and business support
- The development of a range of services which put in place the appropriate building blocks to enable take up and progression

The range of support to be offered by the project is likely to include:

- General access to information
- Specialist advice on employment opportunities etc.
- Access to English tuition
- Learning and training opportunities enabling sharing of facilities
- Linkages with Further Education providers and employers in Cambridge and surrounding areas

Status

The project will build on previous activity, which has improved access to a range of services for Bangladeshi women living in Cambridge. The shape of the project is still to be finalised with delivery on the ground likely to start in late spring – early summer 2007.

Contact

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Enterprise: Commissioning Access Programme

The Commissioning Access Programme is an exciting project which aims to identify and eradicate the barriers that exist for social enterprises trying to win contracts from statutory agencies.

The project acts as a broker between statutory agencies and social enterprises, engaging with both sides to identify and address barriers, and up-skilling social enterprises to take advantage of tendering opportunities.

This project has two main strands:

- an awareness programme including launch of a website, designed to increase the visibility of social enterprise and voluntary organisations amongst the procurement community
- a training and advice programme designed to assist social enterprises and voluntary organisations in securing contracts

Delivered by The Social Enterprise People in partnership with Enterprise Fenland, these strands are complemented by one-to-one business advice to help with tendering for contracts. General business support is available to social enterprises in Fenland, where the needs of the sector require a wider-ranging and more intensive service.

Status

Feedback from people attending training sessions has been very positive and at least 4 new jobs have been created in 2006/07. A website was launched in January containing a database of key information about the goods and services offered by social enterprises in Cambridgeshire. Also available on the website is a directory of tenders offered by the public sector, for local social enterprises to use to search for new business opportunities. The project will continue in 2007/08.

Contact

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Enterprise: Social Accounting Pilot

Social accounting is a process that seeks to measure progress and performance against social, environmental and economic objectives. Critically it helps to identify the monetary value of some of the softer outcomes so often lost in determining the value of organisations- especially amongst the voluntary and community sectors and social enterprises.

Through research of best practice The Social Enterprise People have successfully adapted existing tools and methods to better suit the needs of 'social enterprises'.

The Social Accounting Pilot is now working with organisations, training and supporting them as they undertake the process for the first time. The deliverers have also been raising awareness of social accounting around the region through visits and presentations with small social organisations and local, regional and national funders.

The aim of this project is to establish a centre of social accounting excellence in Cambridgeshire by providing support for social enterprises to measure their real benefits.

Status

In 2006/07 the project has worked with BoomBizz, Engaging Employers II, the Learn and Earn Advocacy Project and the Commissioning Access Programme, all liC projects.

The focus in 2007/08 will be further data capturing and analysis for the Engaging Employers II, Learn and Earn Advocacy Project and the Commissioning Access Programme. The aim is to build the capacity of these organisations to apply the social accounting model, but especially to establish a centre for social accounting.

Lessons learned from the pilot will be shared on The Social Enterprise People and possibly Greater Cambridge Partnership websites, to enable organisations to choose whether to embark upon the social accounting process, using the capacity of TSEP or another self-assessment tool.

Contact

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Enterprise: Enterprise Support in Disadvantaged Communities (NEW project for 2007/08)

liC investment in enterprise support will complement the new business support service offered by Business Link East (BLE) from April 2007. Under the new BLE contract there will be more generic and online/computer-based support for those considering starting a new business. liC will target those communities currently under-represented in enterprise, providing a more intensive and tailored service, with progression routes to mainstream business support services built in. A four-year contract will enable:

- one-to-one support targeted at disadvantaged people and those living in identified disadvantaged areas (these include significant parts of Cambridge, Huntingdon and Wisbech but also recognising rural disadvantage)
- a targeted series of workshops to raise the profile of enterprise and social enterprise as a potential route to financial independence
- where appropriate the raising of enterprise/social enterprise development built around the Learning Communities approach. Currently this is being fostered in Wisbech and Ramsey but it is intended this will be rolled out to St Neots, Littleport and Chatteris.

The range of support offered by the project includes:

- Confidential one-to-one support
- General access to information about setting up a social enterprise / new business
- Referrals to specialists around particular social enterprise and business matters
- Referrals to learning and training opportunities, liC funded and mainstream

Status

The Tenders for this work are currently being considered and a decision is anticipated early in April 2007.

Contact

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Short-term project: Stepping Stones



One of Red2Green's work placement trainees, being filmed by Newsroom South East

Red2Green supports people with a broad range of disabilities across Cambridgeshire. Many of its clients are well on their way to employment, but need help putting together the last few 'pieces of the jigsaw'. With its new Stepping Stones project Red2Green has been compiling an eight stage personal progress plan laying out a clear step by step progression route for clients, while collecting soft outcome evidence to show how far individuals 'have travelled' alongside their accredited achievements. Stepping Stones has also been useful in involving additional clients, as well as offering exciting new opportunities to existing ones. At least 28 people will be assisting in skills development or assisted to get a job before April 07. Furthermore the project will produce a 'how to' model which it hopes other organisations will find useful in measuring their clients' progression.

This three-month project with a total budget of £56,000 is funded by EEDA, ESF and Cambridge Regional College.

Status

In February and March 2007 Red2Green has run two programmes of 11 motivation and self esteem training sessions, with at least 40 participants of whom 28 are new clients. It is expected that at least 17 will do a work taster session. In addition Red2Green's staff are training to become fully qualified NVQ assessors, which will provide opportunities for the future and sustainability.

Contact

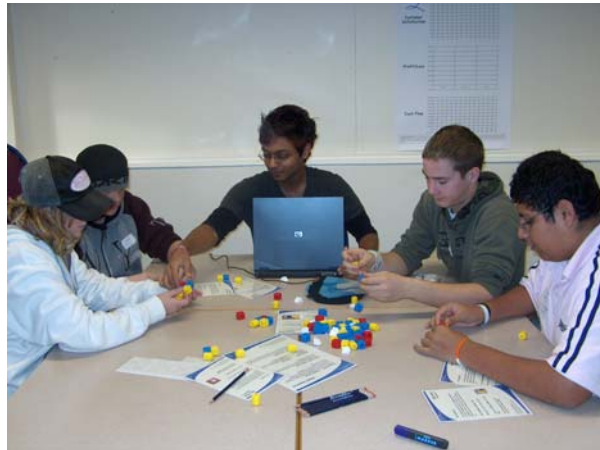
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Short-term project: BoomBizz



BoomBizz is an enterprise game played in schools by 14-19 year olds but which has also been trialled with other young adult groups.

The game involves seven different role plays and organisational processes for participants and helps schools achieve the enterprise requirements of the National Curriculum. BoomBizz is a highly engaging experience that demonstrates to young people that running a business can be challenging, rewarding and most of all fun.

Status

So far 21 BoomBizz sessions have been delivered in 21 different schools to in excess of 3000 students. Feedback from both staff and students has been very positive.

This project is a one year project ending in March 2007, by which time 27 schools and colleges will have participated and each participating school/college will be equipped with two full game sets to enable their continued use across the county.

The lessons learnt from this project will be embedded into future LiC enterprise projects.

Contact

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Short-term project: Pathways to Employment

People with a disability who have complex support needs, often become dependent on support rather than being enabled to gain independence and make choices about their futures.

Critically they become economically dependent on the state and are excluded from the community. Most existing training and employment programmes are not designed to give the very specialist support required and currently there are no specific opportunities for disabled people leaving school to develop appropriate vocational and life skills to improve the chances of employment.

The Pathways to Employment project aims to address the lack of skills, confidence and opportunities for disabled people leaving school within Cambridgeshire. This will be achieved through development of an information DVD and provision of “planning” sessions, delivered with partners, for disabled young people structured to gradually assist this group towards employment.

The DVD will present local opportunities and options to disabled young people and their families enabling them to make informed choices about their future. The DVD will be distributed regionally.

Status

Person-centred planning sessions for young disabled people will be run by the “My Fantastic Life” organization, to help them explore their goals and aspirations and to look at the skills they need to enter training and employment.

Furthermore a range of social training enterprises are providing confidence building sessions and work experience placements. In total 45 disabled people are participating in one or more of the sessions.

This two-month project with a total budget of £45,700 is fully funded by LiC. Although it will run only to the end of March 2007 it will provide an extremely useful piece of action research around needs and aspirations and share experiences regionally through distribution of a DVD during spring/early summer.

Contact

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Short-term project: Papworth Research

CREATE is a Cambridgeshire-wide research project looking at the potential for improving education, training and employment opportunities for people with a physical disability, sensory impairment or learning disability.

The research builds on similar research funded by LiC in 2005 focussing on mental health. It will identify better ways to support disabled people to access education, training, work-based activities and paid employment based on people's aspirations.

The research follows a countywide consultation for disabled people in Cambridgeshire in October 2005, which highlighted the need to identify existing provision of these services, and to identify ways in which they could be improved.

The CREATE project has four aspects:

1. To list training and employment-related services currently available in Cambridgeshire, and to ask service providers about their services, and their views on how services could be improved.
2. To ask a sample of service users about the services they receive and how they could be improved.
3. To ask carers about the impact on them of people moving into education, training or employment and how they can support individuals.
4. To identify gaps in services, good practice amongst existing services and to share the learning from the project with commissioners, service providers, service users and carers.

The project is led by Papworth Trust and the total cost of £20,000 is funded by LiC.

Status

The report will be completed and disseminated in April 2007. It will inform future development of LiC-funded activity to support disabled people into employment.

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