

Welcome to the Summer 2009 issue of the Cambridgeshire Investing in Communities Newsletter!

Investing in Communities Cambridgeshire is a programme from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and Cambridgeshire County Council and delivered by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to enable people to participate in the local economy. Its aims are to raise basic skill levels, address barriers to employment and equip people to start their own business. The programme involves a range of local partners working together to identify local needs and invest in local projects that will make the biggest difference.

INVESTING in
COMMUNITIES
Cambridgeshire

In the middle of a recession, the IiC funded projects are helping many people across Cambridgeshire to gain new skills and improve their employability.

A whole range of people have gained a qualification, entered employment or started their own business. For example in the last three years the programme has supported more than 4,500 people, 43 businesses started trading and 235 businesses have been supported.

This newsletter gives you a flavour of the highlights of the IiC programme in the last couple of months, including some success stories of beneficiaries.

More information on IiC Cambridgeshire can be found at <http://www.gcp.uk.net/investing-communities.php>.

An overview of all the IiC Cambridgeshire projects can be downloaded from www.gcp.uk.net/downloads/IiCProgRepJun.pdf.

Opening of the Rosmini Centre

- On 1 July 2009 the newly refurbished Rosmini Centre in Wisbech opened its doors. The centre offers a full range of services either directly or through partner organisations. The Rosmini Centre's aim is to ensure that the services they provide caters for all members of the local community, including the migrant workers population.
- The four main programmes delivered at the centre are related to Education, Art, Health and Leisure. The main elements of the education part are the provision of English, Polish and Spanish lessons, skills checks and numeracy courses.

- Home-Start Wisbech and the Fenland Volunteer Centre relocated to the Centre when it reopened. The hall and remaining rooms are now used on a regular basis by other local charities and statutory organisations.
- IiC has invested £334,000 in 2008/09 and is funding another £40,000 for 2009/10 to help the sustainability of the centre.
- Contact: Anita Grodkiewicz, rcw_manager@btconnect.com, tel. 01945 474422.



Opening of the Rosmini Centre, 1 July 2009

Slivers of Time flourishing in the gloom

- Slivers of Time is a web based recruitment project providing a database of people, their skills and ability for flexible working. During July Slivers of Time arranged for 61 people to

work for a new contract with NHS Cambridgeshire. The staff have been supplied to support special clinics around the county to dispense antiviral drugs for flu sufferers. This new contract has made it possible for Slivers to become sustainable.

- Slivers of Time has the availability to inform staff of work opportunities quickly and have them available at very short notice. This is what makes the system attractive to employers, particularly where a specific project has particular or irregular staffing requirements.
- Workers using Cambridgeshire Slivers have been able to supplement low incomes, return to work while receiving assisted training, and to come off benefits.
- This project received £84,000 from the IIC programme.
- Contact: Wendy Carr, wendy.carr@anglia.ac.uk, tel. 0845 196 2510

Opening of teaching buildings Sandalwood Farm

- On 17 July 2009 the teaching buildings at Sandalwood Farm were officially opened in a very festive way with a Country and Western style party.
- Run by Grahame Brownlow, his wife Mary and son Joe, the farm has relationships with 7 local schools and colleges providing a grounding in agricultural and outdoor activities for children who would otherwise be excluded or struggle in the academic environment.



Opening of Sandalwood Farm 17 July 2009

- Sandalwood Farm is giving these children skills for life, they include social skills on how to

interact with others, as well as self-confidence, and a code of conduct for behaviour.

- IIC invested £65,000 in the teaching buildings at Sandalwood Farm.
- Contact: Grahame Brownlow, info@sandalwoodfarm.co.uk, tel. 01945 701094.

Two CREAM clients short-listed for national Barclays Business Award

- Deannah Stocker, a lone parent, became self-employment by opening Splashtime Swimming School based in March. She works with classes and on a one-to-one basis. She is the only teacher in the area to offer coaching to people with special needs and autism, and also works with disabled children and adults.
- Her business has been named one of the UK's top 100 businesses in the 2009 Barclays Trading Places Awards, a national award that honours men and women who turn their lives around by starting up a business. Also Ian Edmond, who runs UFH.BIZ Underfloor Heating has been short listed in the same awards.
- Deannah and Ian both started their businesses with support from the business advisors working for the CREAM (Cambridge and Rural, Enterprise Advice and Mentoring) project. The project specialises in supporting people in starting up their own business. The project receives £100,000 from the IIC funding this year.



*Deannah Stocker,
owner of Splashtime
Swimming School*

- Contact: Paul Gardner, paul.gardner@nwes.org.uk, 01354 660900.

Paddle Boarding in Cambridge and Fens with CREAM support

- Paddle Boarding has become a new hype in Cambridge and Wicken Fen. This activity involves standing on an oversized surfboard with an oversized paddle and is an environmentally friendly way to enjoy the waterways and its surrounding.
- Roland Gurner started up his Fen Paddle Company business with support from the CREAM business advisors.
- Contact: Paul Gardner, paul.gardner@nwes.org.uk, 01354 660900.



Paddle Boarding on the Cam

CHS short-listed for national award

- Cambridge Housing Society's laptop loan scheme has helped it to be short listed for one of the Chartered Institute of Housing's 2009 Awards. This is recognition of the significant impact the project has made over the last two years and demonstrates how housing associations can take a fresh look at issues which cut across policy areas like digital inclusion. Invariably feedback from people who have used the service suggests their self-confidence has increased, but there have also been stories of people moving on in more dramatic ways - from stopping self-harming to getting a job after recovering from an addiction.
- CHS has also received further funding for the service from Cambridgeshire County Council and the Learning and Skills Council via

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities and Skills for Jobs.

- This project received £206,000 EEDA funding in 2007/08/09 and another £24,216 in 2009/10.
- Contact: Andrew Church, newhorizons@cambridgehs.org.uk, 01223 713747



Learner receiving IT support

Learning Communities - Working towards the 2012 Olympics

- Working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Learning Trust is now offering sports and arts activities as part of their learning communities project.
- Taster sessions in the arts and sports are being offered, with progression to further education and the potential to gain recognised qualifications in sports and leisure activities.
- These sessions offer enjoyable, non-threatening and accessible opportunities for people who are currently unemployed or have low skills levels.
- These additional activities have been made possible with £50,000 from the LIC Programme, and £15,000 from Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Contact: Marvin Symes, symesm@hotmail.com, tel. 07910 276193.

New support for people with a work limiting illness

- The tender for 'support for people with a work limiting illness' has been won by the Shaw Trust and started in June 2009. The project provides tailored support, working in partnership with other organisations in Cambridgeshire. Most of the training sessions take place in premises of partner organisations. This support will help people directly into work, work placements, gaining qualifications, or getting ready to enter mainstream support such as Pathways to Work. Part of their work is liaising with employers to find work placements.
- A project worker has been recruited for this project, starting on 1 September.
- EEDA is investing £78,000 in this project.
- Contact: Sarah Huggins, sarah.huggins@shaw-trust.org.uk, tel. 07977155707

Wisbech Learning Centre work started

- The work for the new refurbished and expanded Wisbech Library started in July 2009. £100,000 of EEDA funding has been allocated to develop a Learning Centre in the library.
- The Centre will accommodate training courses for the wider community, especially for the economically inactive adults. The new library is planned to open in January 2010.



The future Learning Centre space in Wisbech Library

- Contact: Rebecca Morgan, Rebecca.Morgan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, tel. 01223 718042.

Fenland Engineering Skills Centre open January

- The project is a partnership between Fenland Partnership and Stainless Metalcraft. They are establishing a fully-equipped training facility at the Stainless Metalcraft site in Chatteris to promote and develop opportunities for young people in engineering. The project started in May 2009 and from January the first learners will be using this training facility.
- EEDA is funding this project with £170,000.
- Contact: Ian Alford, ianalford@mac.com, tel. 07790 731184.



Students participating in engineering diploma

Employment and skills support for Travellers

- In June 2009 the funding was approved for the Learn and Earn Project for Travellers. The aims of this project are to engage Travellers in education and training opportunities, and improve their employability. This will be done by providing vocational, education and training opportunities for them, together with partner organisations. The service also includes the provision of advocacy support that will provide 1 to 1 support for Travellers to remove barriers to employment.
- The project workers have been recruited and started to deliver the services to the Gypsy and Traveller community within Cambridgeshire.
- Contact: John Souter, john.souter@ormiston.org, tel. 01480 496577.

Learning Communities take to Europe!

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Learning Trust is taking the concept of Learning Champions from the Learning Communities project into Europe. Using Grundtvig funding to expand on the Cambridgeshire Learning Communities project has allowed Learning Champions from the UK to visit champions in Denmark and Germany to share ideas, experiences and good practice.
- Roy Brown (CEO of CP Learning Trust): "We are looking at the role of 'Learning Champions' and how well this model works here and in other countries. Ultimately we hope to develop a common model which can be used by all and to ensure that we provide all Learning Champions with a high quality service.
- So far we have looked at competencies in the areas of recruitment, development, support and sustainability, all of the consultations and results from these meetings are reported back to the Learning Champions in the UK."
- CP Learning Trust is receiving £220,000 EEDA funding this year to set up learning communities in Oxmoor, Chatteris and Eaton Socon.
- Contact: Roy Brown, CEO, rr.rbrown@btinternet.com, tel. 01354 691004.



Cambridgeshire Learning Champions in Denmark

IiC in 2010/11

- The IiC Cambridgeshire programme will be continuing in 2010/11 as a revenue only programme. The allocated budget is £724,419. The business plan is currently being developed and the final draft will be ready in October. It has to be approved by the GCP Partnership Board, IiC Strategic Board, Cambridgeshire Cabinet and EEDA board.
- The projects identified for 2010/11 will all be continuation projects. This will help them to maximise the impact they can make, build on their successes from this year, and work towards sustainability. All projects will keep the focus to help individuals through the recession.

Contact Us

For more information on Investing in Communities in Cambridgeshire, contact Ank Kromdijk on 01223 718648 or email her at ank.kromdijk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

For a large text copy of this newsletter please email lucy.brock@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.