



# WNF Worklessness Bulletin

## Issue 2



### WNF Is Underway!

Progress has accelerated on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme with the target of £9.9 million for 2009/10 being exceeded. There is strong commitment to continue the momentum in the final year of the programme — projects are well into their delivery phase and are having a positive impact in the targeted neighbourhoods, engaging and supporting a large number of residents.

The programme supported 5,290 residents to the end of March 2010, targeting the most deprived neighbourhoods where unemployment is above 25%. WNF is supporting 271 businesses through the economic downturn, creating employment opportunities for the future.

The programme will be distributing the 'WNF Project Directory' in May, outlining all of the support that targeted residents can access. The directory will be available from libraries, community centres, partner organisations and from the BCC website.

### What's New?

Residents in the priority areas of Hodge Hill looking to improve their English language skills can now access the new **Hodge Hill ESOL Project**.

'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) course is being delivered in partnership by EnterKey Training Ltd and Crossover 619 and offers the following:

- Accredited ESOL training from beginner level
- Accredited employer specific ESOL training
- 'Skills for Life' programme, to aid progression into employment
- C.V. preparation and job matching services

Contact: Enterkey Training 0121 773 3410  
www.enterkeytraining.com  
info@enterkeytraining.com



### DisABILITY to Work!

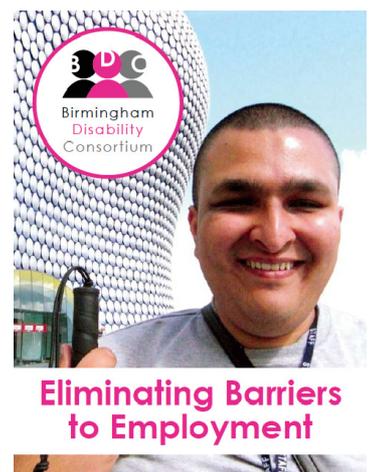
**Birmingham Disability Consortium (BDC)** is working with one of the most challenging client groups furthest away from the labour market. BDC work intensively with people with varying disabilities to overcome barriers, build confidence and provide a path to move towards sustainable employment.

By the end of March 2010, BDC had helped 184 clients with disabilities access pre-employment support.

Working on the WNF programme has also given the consortium the ideal platform to develop as an example of good practice where third sector organisations have come to work together to provide a cohesive and complementary service for the whole client group.

Each of the consortium members have specific skills and expertise to deal with a targeted disability, so pooling their knowledge allowed them to form the perfect structure from which to provide a complete and holistic service provision.

Contact: BDC 0121 200 3930  
www.bdcsupport.org.uk  
enquiries@bdcsupport.org.uk



Eliminating Barriers to Employment

## Constructing a Path to Employment

14 young people have been through a two week apprenticeship 'Get Into Construction' programme coordinated by the Employment Access Team in conjunction with Carillion Construction, the Prince's Trust and Solihull College, giving them the opportunity to try their hands in the following trades:

- Cement Mixing
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry and joinery



The programme has been a great success with:

- 4 young people interviewed and starting the apprenticeship route with Carillion
- 5 signed up for college courses
- 3 accessing employment
- All applying for CSCS cards allowing them to work on construction sites

**Contact: Sue Hall 0121 303 4957**  
[eateam@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:eateam@birmingham.gov.uk)

## Success Stories

Khuram, has a hearing impairment and minor speech impediment. His ambition is to be an Employment Advisor but he has low confidence. BDC have secured him a voluntary placement in his area of interest, provided confidence building sessions, and help with his CV.

Khuram will also be starting NVQ Level 3, and have access to vocational information, advice and guidance qualifications.

## 'A Ticket to Employment Please'



**WorkWise in Birmingham**, jointly funded by Centro and WNF are helping clients into employment by providing:

- FREE personalised journey planning service
- FREE day tickets to attend job interviews
- FREE travel passes to get to work for up to 3 months, if starting a new job.

To be eligible for WorkWise clients must be:

- Living in a WNF-designated Super Output Area (SOA) postcode
- Unemployed at least three months (exceptions apply) and on a worklessness-related benefit
- Not on another programme that can assist with travel costs
- Registered with a WNF provider in Birmingham or signing-on at your local JobcentrePlus office
- Clients must apply before or within the first seven days of starting work

So far over 200 combined day tickets and travel passes have been handed out to the end of March 2010, and there are still plenty more in stock to take advantage of!

**Contact: 0121 480 3816**  
[workwisebirmingham@centro.org.uk](mailto:workwisebirmingham@centro.org.uk)

## Calling All Entrepreneurs!

Those looking to unleash their potential by having a business of their own can now tap into the following three types of support available through the WNF programme.

Next generation innovators and entrepreneurs looking to drive their high-tech products to the marketplace can find help through the **Entrepreneurs for the Future (e4f)** project to get started in business and achieve commercial success.

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Contact: Gary Gould 0121 260 6000  
[info@bsp-a.com](mailto:info@bsp-a.com) [www.bsp-a.com](http://www.bsp-a.com)

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Available: **Business Development Grants** for residents considering self employment or with an existing business, to develop and grow — **Feasibility Grants** of £2,500 to develop new market opportunities for products and services — **Business Space Grants** to help businesses set up in new premises, or move to a larger space.

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Contact: Business Link Gateway 0845 113 1234  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/bdg](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bdg)

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The **Stimulating Enterprise Through Coaching** project provides support to residents to start their own business in areas where self employment is below average. The support will explore business ideas and provide tailored support to meet individual needs.

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Please get in touch with your suggestions and feedback:  
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