

JEM Annual Report 2016

Projects

2016 has been busy and a very productive year as JEM completed two projects - 'Digital Inclusion Training Programme', which was funded by Foundation Derbyshire, provided basic computer skills training to enable older people, refugees and asylum seekers to acquire computer skills such as word processing, email and the internet. Learners who completed the training were presented with certificate of attendance by the Chair on JEM.

The second project, 'Job Search and Interview Techniques Project', funded by Awards for All, provided employability skills training to help unemployed people from the BME community improve their future education, training and employment prospects. The training comprised of job search skills, interview techniques, mock interviews, ESOL and mentoring. Those completing the course were presented with certificate of attendance presented by the manager of the Derby Refugee Advice Centre.

At the end of December 2016, 137 unemployed people had been helped. They accessed 21 Job Search and Interview Techniques workshops – attended by an average of 12 learners per session, lasting for 1.15 hours; 40 ESOL classes – with average attendance of 11 learners, lasting for 2 hours per session; 38 Computer Training sessions – average attendance of 9, lasting for 3 hours per session; 17 Group Mentoring sessions – average attendance of 7, lasting for 1 hour; and 19 One-to-One Mentoring sessions – lasting for 1 hour per session. In other words, JEM received a total of 1172 visits, provided 135 training and mentoring sessions lasting for 2,764 hours, with each learner receiving over 23.6 hours of support.

Of the 137 people who were helped, 35 have found full-time employment, 3 are doing voluntary work and the remainder are either actively looking for employment or in further education. The project has improved the life chances of all learners as they have improved their employability skills including ability to complete job application forms, write CVs and cover letters, and have developed teamwork skills. It has also enabled better understanding of the English language giving people a better chance of accessing services in the local community.

The success of these projects has meant that those in employment are no longer claiming Job Seekers Allowance; and with their increased purchasing power, would support the local economy. It would also bring about a reduction in social isolation; less incidents of anti-social behaviour resulting in improved community cohesion.

Referrals

Derby College referred a student on their Certificate of Education and Training course to undertake a year's placement with JEM beginning in September 2016. This has enhanced the image and credibility of JEM both in the community and the further education institutions.

JEM also received referrals from Jobcentre Plus, Derby Refugee Advice Centre and the Red Cross. The majority of referrals were by word of mouth.

Booklet

JEM has produced a "Digital Inclusion Training Programme Booklet" for learners undertaking the computer training course. The booklet provides a guide ranging from recognising and using a computer, word processing, using the internet, email and definitions of computer jargons.

Networks

JEM has attended the following networking meetings: ESOL Providers Forum meeting, Refugee and Asylum Seekers Co-ordination meeting (both facilitated by Derby Red Cross), Derby City Council and Jobcentre Plus Staff meeting.

On the horizon in 2017

In December 2016 "The Henry Smith Charity" awarded JEM a two year grant towards the running costs of our project which will start in the New Year providing support to improve the employment prospects of refugees and asylum seekers in the City.

Sincere thanks to our funders, volunteers for their fantastic work and also the Board of Trustees for their support throughout the year.