

Jobsearch-Employment-Mentoring (JEM)

Annual Report - 2017

Aim of JEM

JEM is a community based charity with the aim of improving the employment prospects and life chances of unemployed people in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community including Eastern Europeans, Refugees and Asylum Seekers by providing employability and skills training, including job search and interview techniques, IT and ESOL sessions and one-to-one mentoring support aimed at equipping and preparing individuals to enter or re-enter the labour market, voluntary work or further education.

Projects

This report covers the period between January and December 2017. The “Job Search and Interview Techniques Project”, funded by Awards for All, was completed in December 2016. It provided employability skills training to help unemployed people from the BAME community improve their future education, training and employment prospects. The project helped 137 unemployed people. Of these, 35 have found full-time employment, 3 went into voluntary work and the remainder are either actively looking for employment or in further education.

Currently, we are working on three projects. In January 2017, JEM was awarded a grant towards two years' running costs of our project providing support to improve the employment prospects of refugees and asylum seekers in our community. In May 2017, we joined the ‘Talk English Project’ which is co-ordinated by the Derby Adult Education Service. And in November 2017, we received another grant from Awards for All for our project ‘Route 2 Employment’ – to help improve the life chances of unemployed people including refugees and asylum seekers. Additionally, as part of the UK Parliament Week, JEM hosted an open day event on Saturday 18 November 2017 to raise awareness of Parliament and encourage people to engage with the UK’s democratic system and its institutions.

The year in numbers

At the end of reporting period, over 100 people had been helped. Of these, 18 have found full-time employment, 4 are doing voluntary work and the remainder are either actively looking for employment or in further education. We provided a total of 29 job search and interview techniques workshops, 48 ESOL sessions, 45 IT training sessions and 23 mentoring sessions. In other words, we received a total of 826 visits, and provided 145 training and mentoring sessions.

These projects have 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 and people skills. It has also

improved their confidence and self-esteem, and enabled better understanding of the English language giving people a better chance of accessing services in the local community.

In a wider context, 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.

Student Placement

A student on Certificate of Education and Training course is continuing their placement which started in September 2016.

Referrals

JEM receives referrals from Jobcentre Plus, Derby Refugee Advice Centre, Well for Life, Derby Careers Service, St James Centre and the Red Cross.

Booklet

The "Digital Inclusion Training Programme Booklet" which was produced for learners undertaking the computer training course is being updated. In addition to providing a guide ranging from recognising and using a computer, word processing, using the internet, email and definitions of computer jargons, it will include exercises as well.

Networks

JEM is part of the following community networks: ESOL Providers Forum, Refugee and Asylum Seekers Co-ordination group and New Communities Networking Forum (facilitated by Derby Red Cross).

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees and volunteers their contribution for making this year a success.