

Procure Plus and the GSENZH

partnering

to ensure local people benefit from employment opportunities.

BACKGROUND

The Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH) is a consortium of local authorities in the Southeast of England delivering a programme of energy efficiency improvements for homes across its region. Part of this programme of works has been procured through Procure Plus Holdings (PPH), and as such the region is benefiting from the added social value which PPH brings. Both PPH and the GSENZH authorities had a clear, shared goal to **“...ensure local people benefit from the employment opportunities this creates...”** (Local Energy East Strategy).

All PPH procurement through their frameworks requires delivery of social

value within the client’s localities. PPH use their influence and resources to support and deliver programmes which focus on improving employment opportunities for local people who are considered to have the greatest barriers to entering the world of work.

PPH is focused on ensuring people move into sustainable, quality employment and one of the ways it does this is by providing funding support to organisations which support people into employment. This employment must be contracted for a minimum of six months, and usually permanent, and for at least 30 hours per week. In total on this project, fifty local people have been supported into work.

DELIVERY AND PARTNERSHIPS

PPH engaged in partnerships to offer support to ten voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations whose client groups are the furthest from the labour market and reflect the demographics of their areas. These organisations all work in different and innovative ways to support people into work, from offering mentoring, advice and guidance, helping with CV writing, job applications and interviews, through to providing accredited vocational training.

All of the organisations PPH engaged deliver excellent employment outcomes across the region. The team visited three of them along with Genevieve Dady, Supply Chain Engagement Officer at the GSENZH. Genevieve was impressed by the projects and pleased that the funding generated through the framework was being used by such important projects locally.

“We came to Procure Plus Holdings Ltd looking for a procurement solution for our Sustainable Warmth programme, an initiative that delivers cost-saving improvements to the homes of people often most in need in order to alleviate fuel poverty whilst also reducing their carbon footprint. The approach that Procure Plus has taken with the social value element for our procurement has allowed us not only to deliver community benefits through our projects but also via the procurement process too.

I had the great pleasure of seeing how valuable and life-changing these benefits are when I had the opportunity to visit three of the beneficiary projects mentioned in these reports. The organisations we visited are doing great work in their communities and it was a privilege to meet both the amazing teams behind these ventures and some of those people our funding has helped.”

Genevieve Dady
– Supply Chain Engagement
Officer, GSENZH



spotlight

on three organisations

DIVERSE FM - BEDFORDSHIRE



Diverse FM work with disadvantaged local people who require support moving into employment, by providing media and radio training. Their aim is to raise the aspirations of people and communities, and support participants to overcome barriers, increase in confidence and move into secure, paid employment. The twelve people Diverse FM have supported into work through this project have all been from the BAME community; five were also NEET and two were long-term unemployed. Amraj engaged with Diverse FM, taking part in their media training course, and was later employed as a Project Coordinator with the organisation. He has sustained eight months in this role now, which he thoroughly enjoys, particularly as it enables him to put his lived experience to use supporting other young people currently attending Diverse FM for support and training.

RIGHT RESOLUTION CIC - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Right Resolution CIC supports young people leaving care. They work with care leavers aged 16 to 24 in Northamptonshire and Peterborough offering a range of support with education, employment and training. Work includes intensive 1-2-1 and

group support; over the last nine years the small but impactful team have advocated for and supported 168 young people.

All of the young people Right Resolution supported into work through this project are care-leavers;

two also have a disability and one is from the BAME community. They have secured roles in a wide range of sectors, including health and care, hospitality, and administration.

“The Procure Plus funding has made a huge difference and impact on the Care Leavers that we have supported. The unrestricted funding enabled me to allocate funding on a flexible basis allowing us to support the young people who were experiencing challenges, especially with the impact of cost of living. I was able to support young people with funds toward transport such as taxi fares and bus tickets to get to and from work, as well as work clothing. We were also able to provide a clothes rail for a young person who didn't have space to store her work clothes in her flat!

Care Leavers are often faced with a number of difficulties and have a very limited support network around them. The access to this funding has been a huge help in removing some of these challenges and in supporting these young people to have a better chance of sustaining their employment going forward.”

Amarjit Pawar
– Director and Projects Manager at Right Resolution



spotlight

on three organisations

GOODWILL SOLUTIONS CIC – NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

“Working in partnership with Procure Plus has been such a positive experience. Their support for our programmes to engage with and provide sustainable employment outcomes for those with additional barriers has been incredibly beneficial, encouraging us to aspire to do more.

Working with an organisation and its people who share the values we live by here at Goodwill, and understand the ‘why’ has and continues to be an incredibly supportive collaboration.”

Stephen MacFarlane

– Training Academy Operations Manager at Goodwill Solutions



Goodwill Solutions CIC are a logistics company with a social mission, offering “a life-changing path to employment for those looking for a new start”. Working with ex-offenders, care leavers, people with a history of homelessness and ex-forces. They run a six-week paid training course in warehousing, with a pathway into work through their partner organisations or within Goodwill Solutions’ own warehouse.

Of the four people Goodwill Solutions have supported into work through this project two are ex-offenders, one is also a care leaver; two are BAME and of these people two had also been long-term unemployed for over two years.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Approaching the end of this project, Procure Plus is delighted to have provided **£100,000** in funding support for these ten voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations which has resulted in fifty job outcomes. Furthermore, for those who have reached six months since their employment started, there is a 100% employment sustainment rate. The Procure Plus Social Value team will continue to monitor this over the coming months.

Procure Plus and the GSENGH are now planning to deliver an enhanced social value project to include green skilled employment outcomes and upskilling of existing workforces, in addition to offering further funding to some of the voluntary and community social enterprise organisations supported on this project.



creating value for our communities

Procure Plus Holdings Ltd,
Duckworth House, Lancastrian Office Centre,
Talbot Road, Old Trafford,
Manchester M32 0FP

Tel: 0161 874 1800

email: support@procure-plus.com

www.procure-plus.com