

# Another successful partnership for the Greater South East Net Zero Hub and Procure Plus

Procure Plus was delighted to work with the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENGH) for a second time, delivering a programme of energy efficiency improvements for homes across its region in the South East of England via the HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant) scheme. As well as benefiting from the use of Procure Plus' procurement frameworks, the region was also able to benefit from the "Plus" – that is, the added social value which Procure Plus brings. Procure Plus and the GSENGH had the shared goal to ensure local people benefited from the employment and training opportunities that these works created in green skills and retrofit with the appointed contractors and their supply chain. Additionally, funding was made available to local VCSE sector organisations to support people facing barriers into sustainable jobs.

50

**People to be supported into work in the localities - Kent, Berkshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire**

80%

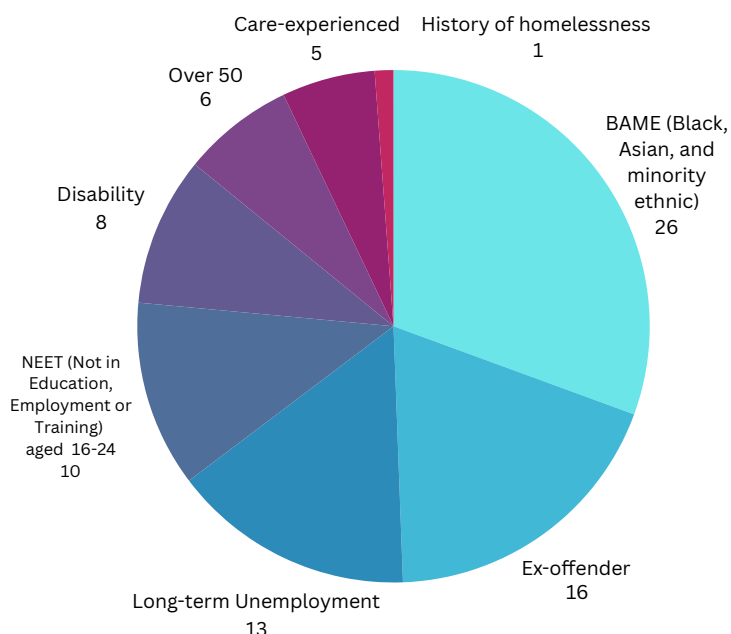
**To be sustained in work after 6 months**

## Project Outcomes

Outcome	Target	Actual
Number of VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Delivery Partners	5	6
Number of people supported into employment by VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Delivery Partners	35	41
-Of the above, number of jobs in construction	10	15
Number of people started in employment in green skills, with the two appointed contractors and with other local contractors**	15	9 (3 of which in general construction rather than green skills)
Number of people started in work from one or more "priority group"	45 (90%)	48 (96%)
Number of people who have retained in work at 6 months	80%	100% (of those audited to date)

\*\*The appointment of large management contractors with short term relationships with their supply chain meant delivering the normal Procure Plus model of securing employment in line with the spend was not fully successful. So Procure Plus worked with other local contractors to source training and develop additional job opportunities, but without the turnover link, this target was not achieved.

Priority Group Breakdown



# VCSE Delivery Breakdown

Funding was provided to six Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector organisations in the region to enable them to support 41 people into employment.

## Social Enterprise Kent

Young people supported through their Elevate Project which is currently in its second year and sees employability training and apprenticeships in construction offered to care leavers, who are given the employability and technical training to prepare them to succeed in these roles.

**Delivered 5 employment outcomes in Kent**



***"I attended the Elevate Programme and secured an apprenticeship at the end of it. It was a really positive experience, and I learned a lot on the course. It felt so good securing a permanent position and I am now very much part of the team. Elevate gave me the confidence to attend an interview and I'm so glad I did it." - Efrem***

## Inside Connections

A CIC (Company Interest Company) which provides opportunities to those in or exiting prison with training courses, a pathway to work recruitment service and mentoring. They are currently working with people on ROTL (Release on Temporary License) in a prison in Kent, so benefited from the funding available to be able to support more people into work.

**Delivered 11 employment outcomes in Kent**



## Inclusive Training Solutions (part of the Goodwill Solutions social enterprise)

Goodwill Solutions' training organisation, which works with people in prisons to get those on ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence) into work which they can continue after release - in logistics as well as construction and other sectors.

**Delivered 7 employment outcomes in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire**

## Diverse FM

A charity based in Luton which works with young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and others who require support moving into employment by providing media and radio training, as well as more general support into work in all sectors.

**Delivered 6 employment outcomes in Bedfordshire**

## Lily's Social Kitchen

A social enterprise which creates opportunities for people, many of whom have a learning disability or other barriers to work, in their cafes and catering service in Canterbury. They also offer "pay as you feel" cafes, with community fridges, so serve the local community more widely.

**Delivered 4 employment outcomes in Kent**



## Smart Works Reading

A charity which supports women from a range of backgrounds into employment by offering interview preparation, confidence building, mentoring, work clothing, and post-employment support.

**Delivered 7 employment outcomes in Berkshire and Oxfordshire**

***"Giving Smart Works a chance really paid off, I've met so many lovely people. My first appointment was fantastic - my confidence immediately increased. Since getting the job I've also had the chance to meet other women who have used the service, getting to speak to them and hear their experiences, and my confidence has continued to grow. I'm so much more confident than I was before.***

***Now I see myself and what I've done as being valuable. I know skills that I have are going to help me in the future. I'm in a really good place." - Asha***