

## Combating Worklessness: Clean Slate Training & Employment and The HandyHelp Co

### CLEAN SLATE TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Clean Slate creates and supports paid work opportunities for long-term unemployed people in disadvantaged communities. In the West of England, Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) commissions us to engage workless people. In London, we have Homelessness Transition Funding to develop social enterprise activity that creates work opportunities for homeless people. The HandyHelp Company is our enterprise operating in both London and Bath.



### OUR WORK IN BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

- Commissioned under Supporting People and Communities (SP&C) to tackle worklessness, engaging people with histories of homelessness, offending, mental ill-health and long-term unemployed people in general
- We see 240 people per year; half of whom complete job prep training; 20% of whom access mainstream jobs
- 5-10 jobseekers a year are recruited as Work Champions (peer advocates) within the service
- Services are delivered on a drop-in basis at shared spaces serving disadvantaged communities such as, Children's Centres, community cafes, resource hubs, and social landlords' neighbourhood offices
- Engagement with jobseekers is as an employer, not a support agency. We cannot generate enough vacancies in-house, so those completing 'Inductions' receive ongoing help with job search and personal development
- Our Induction is a 2-day intensive course that covers: Skills Review, Goal-Setting, Presentation to Employers, What Employers Want, Health & Safety. It reflects our *7 Signs of Job Readiness* methodology
- In 2009, B&NES commissioned us to undertake an Aspirations Survey to explore the ambitions of workless people and barriers holding them back<sup>1</sup>. There was a spike of interest in construction and related trades
- The HandyHelp Co was launched as joint venture with health and independence charity DHI in 2012

### HANDYHELP

The HandyHelp Company ([www.handyhelp.org.uk](http://www.handyhelp.org.uk)) is a social firm providing ethical handyman services to domestic and commercial customers, including basic repairs and maintenance, painting and decorating, gardening, home and garden clearance and cleaning. It operates in Bath and London in partnership with support agencies. Jobseekers can prove themselves on the job, build experience and move onto work for mainstream contractors and local tradespeople, or go onto self-employment. We work with contractors help them add 'social value' to their tenders and also so HandyHelp can offer a 'one-stop-shop' to customers with larger or more specialist jobs.

### WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Naturally, our work with local authorities spans different strategies and directorates. As we expand, we want to replicate the linkages we have achieved in different areas. Activity we are currently connected with:

- Delivery of employer-based, peer delivered job preparation programmes targeting workless people
- Engagement with local employment initiatives, matching candidates to programmes, (eg, apprenticeships)
- Community Learning programmes, such as personal effectiveness (set in the context of job seeking)
- Social enterprise development and job creation – developing sustainable opportunities
- Supply chain activity, adding social value to procurement processes and procured services
- Engaging communities and opening job opportunities to disadvantaged groups – 'employer gateways'
- Linking into regeneration and major projects to create and manage social value in the supply chain

### PARTNERSHIPS

HandyHelp and Clean Slate will jointly work with developers and commissioners of major projects as part of our involvement in strategic development around community regeneration.

<sup>1</sup> See the report, Aspiring to More: [http://cleanslateltd.co.uk/uploads/Clean\\_Slate\\_Aspiring\\_To\\_More.pdf](http://cleanslateltd.co.uk/uploads/Clean_Slate_Aspiring_To_More.pdf)