Work Club Report

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# Start

**Introduction:**

This is the first Northgate Work Club report since the opening on 1st October, 2015. We had a slow start until we resumed in January, 2016; helping people in the local com-munity to gain employment. The Northgate Work Club has established a good working relationship with the Job Centre and I anticipate even more improvements in the near future.

**Development:**

The number of clients attending the work club were 117. They made 415 visits to the work club, which equates to 3.54 visits per person. The number of activities completed total 697 which averages 5.95 per person. This is almost six ac-tivities per person; an exceptionally credible rate of work, which proves we are servicing our clientele and offering them a variety of help to gain employment.

A summary of the activities identify that;

76% of the clients did not have a curriculum vitae,

30% required an email address,

over 36% needed to be registered for a Universal Jobmatch Account,

almost 65% have uploaded their C.V. to the Universal Jobmatch Account,

the majority of clients job search and require help to complete application forms online,

24% had the benefit of further training such as Job Searching, Emailing and Attachments, Covering Letters and completing Application Forms.

Conclusion:

On reflection, we expect the figures to continue at these levels now that the 'Jobcentre Plus' are on board. The success so far: 1 client obtained voluntary work, 4 gained full-time employment, 8 referred to courses and 2 to the Shaw Trust. A further survey is being conducted so we anticipate that these figures will be much greater. Graham Irvine

The Work Club started in October 2015, so we have reached our first anniversary.

We started planning in July, with Graham Irving, who had been running, as a volunteer, a similar operation at eVOLution, which in June announced its closure. After internal fund-raising to allow the purchase of laptops, software and office supplies, we were able to start operations with 5 laptops and 5 volunteers.

We made a flier to leave in the Job Centre and liaised with the job Centre manager, so that they were able to direct clients to us whom they felt would benefit from our help.

There was a slow start, but by January we were handling 6 to 10 clients each session, ater some newspaper and local radio recognition helped us gain momentum. Early in the year we invited the management and advisers from the 'Jobcentre Plus' to visit and learn more about the activities we offer. They were impressed and we were soon getting large numbers of referrals,

Soon, this had risen to 12 to 15 and with the occasional odd days of over 20 clients (!)

Whilst we generally have only 5 volunteers working with clients on laptops (plus one on registration), we usually manage to avoid turning anyone away unseen.

Overall, we have seen over 200 different clients and had over 800 client visits.

# Running Costs

# Fund Raising

The initial fund-raising to enable startup was from within the church family. Running costs, which include broadband, stationary etc. and the leader’s travel expenses, amount to around £2000 per year

To date, this has been covered from within the church family but this is neither sustainable nor reasonable: our contribution should be predominantly volunteers and their patience, not large amounts of ongoing funding. The address this, Harry has been applying for grants from charitable trusts etc. and this continues.

# Successes

From the beginning, our most obvious success was that clients felt that the atmosphere win the Work Club was non-confrontational, which many of them find the Job Centre is: when you have to pass through 2 layers of security to see your adviser, whose job it is to tie you down to a programme of job applications, it is hard to see how this could not be stressful. Then, there is the issue of using a computer – which you have never done before – to do all the job-searching and management of your Job Centre record: we see many cases of clients coming from an unskilled job which had no need for any computer involvement, having no access to the internet at home. There is the public library, where free access to computers is available but free only for 30 minutes, which many of our clients would use up just getting started on a single job application: many online application forms can take 15 minutes to fill in if you understand the form and are reasonably quick in typing (two fingers typing smoothly works, hunt-and-peck means you will run out of time)