

Employment and Training Group

What we did

Our Employment Advisor has been able to assist in the continued development of an existing Employment Group in Ashford, originally set up by Jobcentre Plus. This was established to assist Sure Start Centres in Ashford, to connect customers to training and employment opportunities.

How we did it

Our Employment Advisor took over as chair of the existing group and over time has been able to invite new members to the group.

We have also been able to use the group as a platform to discuss topical issues and have been able to invite various speakers to update the group on topical issues or local priorities.

Who was involved?

The Employment Advisor Ashford Borough council, Childcare Partnership Manager Jobcentre Plus, Sure Start Children Centres Ashford.

Resources

A room is provided free of charge by a local Sure Start Children's Centre, who also provide refreshments.

We have a directory detailing the contact details and a list of service provision from each of the members of the group. We hope to be able to make this available electronically.



Lessons learned

It is anticipated that with the Jobcentre Plus now re-chairing the group, that the range of attendees will continue to grow and that the Jobcentre can use their influence as the primary funders for the majority of provision within the local area, to help shape service delivery on the ground.

A new employment group with an emphasis on Mental Health was forming in Ashford. Following early discussions with the chair of the newly forming group by the Housing Plus Project Manager, we were able to link the two groups together, forming a Mental Health sub-group, with the chair of this group attending the main Employment Group.

Cost

There was no cost to this project.

Additional information

As part of our exit strategy for this aspect of the project, meetings were held with Jobcentre Plus to see if they were willing to take over the chairing of this group again, as we were keen for this group to continue and for this to form part of the network of partners the Housing Options team can call upon once the Employment Advisor post has come to an end.

Jobcentre Plus has agreed to act as chair of the Employment & Training Group again.

For more information email: Housingplus@ashford.gov.uk