



Bridging the Gap Through Technology Project

on offer through
Education Business
Connections Limited





A Briefing for Key JobCentre Plus Staff

**Given by
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Who We Are

- **Formed in 1998**
 - **Not-for-profit-organisation**
 - **Company Limited by Guarantee**
 - **Registered Charity**
 - **Approved centre for City & Guilds, ASDAN, Open College Network & NCFE**
 - **Futurebuilders investee**
- ... A regional success story**

What we do

- **Deliver innovative & creative work related learning and enterprise education activities for adults and young people**
 - Supported by 300 plus businesses from across all sectors
 - Provide insight into employment opportunities on doorstep and further afield
 - Build in development of key skills and employability skills
 - Integrate self esteem, confidence building and improving self belief
 - Emphasis on learning by doing

Bridging the Gap Through Technology



- Part of the 'Makeitwork – The Sunderland Way' pilot project
- Overall city project targeting key workless groups - BME, single parents, drug/alcohol misusers, long term sick/disabled, ex offenders.....
.....and over 50s

**Through EBC's Bridging the Gap Through
Technology**



Targeted Beneficiaries

- Over 50s
- Unemployed – including long term sick & those with disabilities
- Living in Sunderland
- Have an interest in up skilling themselves, particularly around ICT
- Registered with JobCentre Plus
- Benefits unaffected

Targeted Areas of City

- Pallion
- Town End farm
- Eppleton
- Shiney Row
- Washington North
- Grindon
- South Hylton
- Hendon
- Castletown
- Hetton
- Thornholme
- Central
- Houghton
- Thorney Close
- Colliery
- Southwick

Delivery Methods

- Initial assessments
- Individual learning plans developed
- Workshops –1 half day, every week or fortnightly, for up to 6 sessions (depending on ability)
- Large Scale event bringing together clients and potential employers

Initial Referrals

Referral by JobCentre Plus to EBC:

- by phone
- by 'surgeries' in JobCentre Plus offices

Marketing to clients through

- community links
- posters and flyers
- information on EBC website

..... then it's over to EBC

EBC Assessment Process

- One-to-one interview with EBC staff – at venues to suit client (JobCentre Plus, EBC offices, etc)
- Induction and programme schedule provided
- Registration and Action Plan
- Initial skills audit (particularly ICT) – leading to allocation of place in beginner, intermediate or advance workshops
- Ability to move up/down workshops if skills develop quickly or hurdles are encountered

I'm a Star Workshops

- Doorstep delivery
- Easy access by public transport
- At employers' premises
- Building up ICT skills
- Creation of CV in various formats including basic software, desk top publishing & virtual format
- Coping with on-line job applications
- Mock interviews, etc

Large Scale Event

A Careers' Fair with a Twist....

- Beneficiaries showcase themselves (using materials produced at workshops) to potential employers
- Employers looking for new staff recruited
- Hands-on activities with employers to further develop job search techniques

Outcomes & Benefits

For the client

- Improved life skills
- Developed key employability skills
- Improved motivation & self esteem
- Increased practical skills
- Exposure to potential employers
- Understanding of employer requirements

For JobCentre Plus

- New programme
- Tailored to fit over 50 skills gaps
- Direct involvement of employers
- Simple referral process
- Opportunity for people to find work/training



Partnership in Action

Contact EBC

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makeitwork
The Sunderland Way