



## **Paper for SHBC External Partnerships Meeting, September 2023**

### **1. Synopsis and aims of Camberley and District Job Club**

The objective of the Job Club is to support individuals from Surrey Heath (plus those who are within the Camberley Job Centre Plus catchment area) in searching for employment, training opportunities and volunteering activities and to assist them in overcoming any barriers and issues they may encounter.

Clients are supported on a one-to-one basis (or through workshops) by:

- Helping to identify relevant skills, strengths and experiences.
- Assisting them to use these attributes in the process of job searching.  
(N.B. this may include helping clients with CVs, assisting applications for jobs online, completing application forms, and preparing for Interviews).
- Motivating and improving their self-esteem and helping with confidence building.
- Imparting relevant knowledge and experience.

In order to deliver this support, clients can book a 45-minute session (by email telephone or, if it is a first visit, by dropping in) on a Monday morning from 10-1 at High Cross Church in Camberley. If a client is unable to attend a face-to-face session, they can be supported over the 'phone or via Zoom. Clients are reviewed after every 6 and 12 sessions, and again after 6 months of non-attendance.

### **2. Committee and Volunteers**

The Club is managed by a Committee (elected at the Annual General Meeting and meets (approximately) monthly):

Chairman and Treasurer - Peter Nyman

Vice Chair and Training Officer - Sharon Hall, PG Dip CG

Outreach Officer - Murray Rowlands

All volunteers are invited to attend and speak at management meetings.

Current volunteers (not identified above) are Val Young, Sue Davies, Marilyn Spencer, Jenny Steele, Alice Meecham and Liz Haffenden.

Administration is dealt with by Gill Riding (who is self-employed). She also helps with the website, marketing, social media, contacting clients for follow ups, taking minutes etc.

Partners in the community include the following; Camberley Job Centre Plus, Camberley Workshop, VSNS, Richmond Fellowship, CAB, Hope Hub, Maximus, Surrey Choices and High Cross Church.

### **3. Job Fair 2022**

Other than the weekly sessions at High Cross, the Job Club undertook a successful Job Fair in May 2022 which attracted 225 attendees and 26 businesses. This was funded by the Community Foundation for Surrey. 120 of the attendees were referred by Camberley JCP. On the day there were also 'breakout' sessions with stakeholders including the National Careers Service, Camberley JCP, the Apprenticeship and Skills Hub and Inspiring Enterprise. Furthermore, Richmond Fellowship, Maximus, FedCap and VSNS

attended to network and the Hope Hub, Alliance, Thames Hospice, Surrey Choices and Richmond Fellowship all provided for a community wall. A number of clients gained employment as a result of the experience including, for example, at Frimley Heath and Sure Care.

#### **4. Ukrainian Clients**

In autumn 2022, we included within the Monday session at High Cross Church, a service session dedicated to Ukrainian clients which was funded by Frimley Fuel allotments and Cllr Rodney Bates. We employed a paid interpreter, Natalia, who assisted with supporting 10 Ukrainian clients (many of whom were actually well qualified) in order to update CVs in English and help them to find work. This was a great success and 6 clients found work in retail, cleaning and Frimley Heath for example. Additionally, Natalia herself found work at Holland and Barrett.

#### **5. New Laptops**

New laptops this year have replaced our old ones, some of which were 12 years old!. This was supported by SHBC's IT Department and by councillors. This has greatly helped CV and job search work.

#### **6. Data and Outcomes**

- During the financial year 2022 - 2023, the Job Club saw 119 clients of whom 35 found work in areas such as retail, hospitality, GP surgeries, Legoland, property maintenance and administration.
- The Job Club website saw 2493 Visits during 2022 - 2023 (a 67% increase on the previous year) and its Facebook page has 95 followers with a range of 5 to 37 engaging with posts at any one time. Leaflets are available locally (e.g. at Camberley Library) and the Job Club produced 3 newsletters which are mainly circulated electronically to partners and clients.

#### **7. Where we are now**

- The Monday morning sessions have continued with up to 4 stations where clients can be supported by a volunteer adviser. This was a response to increased demand, and for the opposite reason, the laptops that can be used by a client individually have been reduced to 1. At present, this means that up to 12 clients can be seen by an adviser on any one Monday session, and up to 3 clients can work by themselves. A new client's first appointment does not involve any digital work so that further increases the potential number of contacts.
- The Job Club will continue to publicise itself and the relevant activities of community partners.
- The Job Club has agreed to support the Camberley Workshop by taking referrals from them for clients seeking help in actual job searching. The details of this are still being finalised.
- The Job Club is supporting the upcoming job fair by, for example, providing lists of its clients and contacts obtained via the job fair in May 2022.
- Due to careful housekeeping, the Job Club has been able to offer an informal drop-in coffee session for those wishing to improve their conversational English, initially, once a month.
- Two volunteers have been tasked with widening the financial base of the Job Club. This is quite a task as there are very few funders in the area, apart from statutory bodies that are funding 'revenue expenditure'.
- A further two people have been asked to take the Job Club from an 'Unincorporated Community Organisation' to a 'Community Interest Organisation' formerly covered by Charity Commission rules and procedures.

- Finally, the Job Club is open to an expansion of its activities. One of the key necessities for this to happen is having a sound financial base (especially as such an expansion would almost certainly involve increased revenue funding as well as newer sources of funding).

*Peter Nyman (Chair)*

16/08/2023