

## Area Board Briefing Note – Building Bridges, support available for unemployed/ not in education

<b>Service:</b>	<b>Employment and Skills</b>
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The Building Bridges project continues to support those furthest from the workplace or with multiple barriers back towards the world of work, education or training. The team offer bespoke 1:1 support to help identify what barriers a person might have which are preventing them progressing and help plan ways to address these. They can even offer up to 12 weeks support once someone has entered employment/ education to ensure they have settled in and aid with transition.

Building Bridges can work with any Wiltshire resident aged over 15 (no upper age limit) as long as they have the right to work in the UK and are not currently in and employment / formal education.

The team are currently supporting a range of NEET (not in employment education and training) young people to identify what their plans for September and make steps towards engaging with that goal.

The project has recently seen a large increase in referrals for support for Ukrainian guests through the Family and Community Learning ESOL (English for speakers of other languages). We are working in close partnership with FCL to offer ongoing support to those completing their ESOL programme and help them access work or further training.

We are keen to work with local communities to reach those individuals whom we may not have reached yet and offer them the fantastic 1:1 support the team are able to provide.

Building Bridges is a partnership of organisations, led by Community First, that has come together to deliver the Building Better Opportunities Programme across Swindon and Wiltshire.

The project has received up to £8.4M of funding from the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.

Support is free for those participating on the project.

Referrals can be made by a professional or self referral and can be made via the Website.

More information on the project can be found at: [www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk](http://www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk)