

Save the date: Community First AGM

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration will take place on Wednesday 11th October (5.30-7.30pm) at Devizes Town Hall. Invitations for the AGM will be sent by email in the next few weeks.

Building Bridges Programme impact report

The first phase of the Building Bridges programme has now come to an end. Managing partner Community First and key programme partners involved in the delivery of the programme have created an impact report with a summary of programme achievements (including with harder-to-reach groups), outcomes and success stories.

The impact report can be viewed/downloaded via our website:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Building-Bridges-Programme-Impact-Report-Final-Version.pdf>

A copy of the impact report is also included with this briefing document. Please feel free to circulate the report amongst your colleagues and networks and help us celebrate the amazing achievements of Building Bridges as we move into the next phase of programme delivery with funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

We are currently in the process of updating the Building Bridges website to include an online referral form. Please see below for more information about programme delivery and who is currently eligible for support in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire

The Building Bridges programme will continue to support people aged 16-65 in Wiltshire who have significant barriers and challenges to move towards education and employment.

Swindon

Inspire Swindon offers personalised support to young people who live in Swindon and who are also in one (or more) of the following groups:

- 15-18 years old who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training).
- 15-18 years old who are NEET.
- 15-18 years old who are engaging with Swindon Youth Justice Service.
- 15-18 years old who are Care Experienced.
- 15-18 years old with an Education, Health & Care Plan.

We are in discussion with other funders to try to establish a programme to support people aged over 19 in Swindon and will give further details of this as soon as we can.

To make a referral (or self-referral) please contact the Building Bridges Lead Team (Community First) by email: hello@buildingbridgessw.org.uk or telephone: 01380 732821. Individuals aged over 19 years who live in Swindon can also register their details for a potential future programme.

Building Bridges multiplies maths life skills

Did you know that 49% of adults of working age have the maths skills of a primary-aged child and 78% are working at below a Level 2 (GCSE C/4) grade? Maths anxiety is one of the reasons why many people avoid revisiting their maths. They may shy away from talking about their maths skills due to a bad experience in school or feel that they are ‘not a maths person.’

Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills.

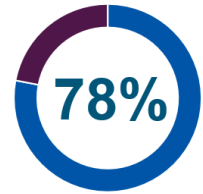
People aged 19 and over that don’t have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), can access free courses through Multiply to build their confidence with numbers and perhaps gain a qualification.

All Building Bridges Support Workers have been trained and qualified as National Numeracy Champions via a CPD-accredited programme. This gives them the knowledge and understanding needed to support adults who have low confidence with Numeracy so that individuals, children, parents, and families in the community can develop positive attitudes towards maths learning.

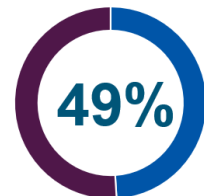
Some Maths Life skills that may be supported include:

- Money, savings, debts and benefits
- Using public transport or learning to drive
- Income and household budgeting
- Shopping for less
- Saving energy and money on bills
- Childcare costs

The Building Bridges Programme is working in partnership with Wiltshire Council to deliver life skills, maths learning and support individuals to gain accredited qualifications to help improve their confidence and chances of education, employment or job prospects and security.



of adults are working below level 2 (GCSE grade 4/C)



of adults have the numeracy skills expected of children at primary school



Youth Action Wiltshire - Summer activity programme

We have created an exciting programme of summer activities for young carers and people facing challenges in their lives. The free-to-access activities are offered by Community first (Youth Action Wiltshire) during school holidays with the aim of offering respite and opportunities for young people to make friends and access support from our specialist team of trained youth workers.

The Splash summer programme is available online: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/splash/> and a copy of the young carers summer programme is included with this briefing pack.

Activities planned for this summer include:

- Sport and swim: a mix of sports ending with exclusive use of swimming pool facilities and inflatable obstacle course.
- Cookery: a day at Oxenwood preparing a variety of nutritional affordable easy to make meal options.
- Let's paint (art project): A two-day project painting a young people designed mural in an underpass in Salisbury.
- Climbing and paddleboarding: Climbing wall and paddleboard experience.
- Farm days: spending a day at a local farm taking care of the animals.
- Water sports: kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding at Oxenwood.

In addition to free-to-access group activities, Community First also offers free transport for young people to and from the various locations where activities are delivered. This includes our dedicated Outdoor Education Centre at Oxenwood.

Our activity programmes offer adventure, opportunity and friendship to hundreds of young carers, young victims of crime and young people facing challenges in their lives. We are looking forward to an exciting summer of fun with the young people we support.

Community Insurance

Community Insurance is a specialist insurance agent service from Community First. We offer comprehensive insurance for local councils, village halls, community building and playing field associations, with support from our friendly and professional team.

Our policies are underwritten by Zurich. Income generated from Community Insurance is reinvested back into communities including support for village halls, community buildings, local councils and other services provided by Community First.

For more information about Community Insurance, please visit: www.communityfirst.org.uk/insurance

Copies of our Community Insurance leaflet for local councils and village halls and community buildings are included with this briefing document.

For a free, no obligation quote:

Email: communityinsurance@communityfirst.org.uk or telephone 01380 732809.

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