

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE: 5TH JUNE 2008

INTO WORK - FEEDBACK

How the money was spent:

Salaries were separated into two sections. Salaries for core members of staff within the organisation such as the Business Development Manager, members of the Employment Development Team, Training Department, Finance and Administration and Project Site Manager. The second section is aimed at beneficiaries (Workers) wages.

All salaries for core staff within the organisation was calculated at 15% over the 26 week programme, apart from the Project Site Manager where the salary was calculated at 100%

Salaries for beneficiaries (Workers) were paid at the National Minimum Wage for age at the time of the project.

Capital costs for the project in the first three weeks was spent on establishing the site which consisted of site cabins, tools and workers protective clothing. The site cabins would be an on-going cost throughout the project at approximately £350.00 per month. Other capital costs have been materials that cover all projects within the programme. This includes: substantial amount of treated timber fencing, rolls of barbed wire fencing, sections of dry-stone walling, several tonnes of dolomite, concrete for new floors and bases, new signage across all areas of the Trust and "A" frames and "Buggy Loops" at the head of pathways.

Outcomes of the Project:

PROJECTED:

50% achieving a qualification	Actual: 73%
60% Into sustainable employment	Actual: 33%
5 New starts to extension: 100% qualifications	

Other Funding:

Other funding the SIB has attracted is Urban 11 and City of Sunderland. It was also matched with beneficiary subsidies from Jobcentre Plus.

Key Lessons and Issues from Project:

This project was operated within an Intermediate Labour Market model. Although this model is often deemed expensive to run, the outcomes outweigh the outlay. The difference this project has made is that it enabled long-term unemployed people to re-train and work within a "real work" environment that would hopefully lead to sustainable employment. The added value was the improvement to the environment and the area around the Wildlife Trust. As such Trusts rely upon volunteers, the extra waged option was of great benefit to the programme.

Future Planning:

As with all projects based around social inclusion, people into jobs, the need to continue is ever-present. However, due to the available funding streams it is very difficult for such programmes to ensure sustainability. The European

Social Fund, now in the hands of Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council is usually only available for fully funded provision through calls to tender. The difficulty in securing funding for such provision is the “match funding” element. It goes without saying that other funding sources are constantly being interrogated for future funding purposes.