



BigLife Enterprises

Impact report 2016

Working Well

Big Life Enterprises provides advice, employment and training opportunities for people who face a range of barriers to work.

We deliver Working Well, an innovative service that supports people across Manchester, Salford and Trafford who have been through two years of the Work Programme, and remain without employment, to get into work.

The service is commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

This year, Working Well had **1056** referrals, going on to work with **969** people.

- **71%** had either never worked or not worked for more than 5 years.
- **60%** had either no qualification or qualifications below GCSE level.
- **47%** were experiencing depression or low mood.

Working Well has been supported by **2** volunteers and an apprentice this year, all of whom went into full time employment.

18% of clients completing the programme have found employment

More than **227** services were involved in clients' support, including skills support, GPs, housing, mental health, money support and family support

- **1260** clients are working with at least one service
- **437** referrals have been made to other services
- **53%** of people who had a review this year had improved their wellbeing since starting with Working Well
- Our complex dependencies team worked with **44** families and **68** individuals, resulting in **12** people finding employment and **1** work placement.

I had been out of work for three years, and on the Work Programme for two. I didn't feel that my CV was bad, but I'd had health issues that meant there were gaps in it.

My Work Programme advisor had heard about Working Well, and asked if I was interested. I called them straight away and arranged a meeting with them.

The first meeting was focused on understanding what 'barriers to work' meant. For anyone who'd been out of work for two years, the question isn't about what job you want, it's about what's been in the way – whether that's personal reasons, medical reasons or anything else.

My advisor was great at this – they didn't say 'what have you done so far, we'll find you something similar', instead they looked at the core skills I had and tried to find things that match.

As well as seeing Working Well, I was also getting mental health support from Self Help, who were based in the same location. That was really convenient – I could speak to my Working Well advisor at the same time as my Self Help support worker.

Because the two of them worked together, and were aware of my strengths and the sort of work I'd probably be good at, they found an opportunity for me. So I put an application in, got an interview, and was lucky enough to be told I was successful!

Without Working Well, I don't have any confidence that I'd be back in work, and I think my health would have deteriorated to the point that I don't think I could have salvaged it. Thanks to Working Well, not only am I in work, I'm in a job that I enjoy, and where I feel supported.

Simon



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