



PRESS RELEASE

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Charity Launches Employment Programme for Hard to Reach Young People in Brighton

Employment charity, Tomorrow's People today launches 'Working It Out,' a programme incorporating community challenges, to help hard to reach young people in East Sussex into work, education or training.

The opening of the programme, 'Working It Out', will be attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Brighton and Hove, Councillor David Smith at the 'Working It Out' operation centre, 205a Preston Road, Brighton, from 4.30pm-5.30pm today.

The service in Brighton is an Entry to Employment (e2e) programme helping young people aged 16-24 develop employability skills, life and social skills and gain practical work experience through a series of community challenges.

'Working It Out' in Brighton is funded by three organisations. Funding is provided by the Learning and Skills Council through crime reduction charity, Nacro's services in Sussex. Additional funding is provided by Barclays through its community investment programme, and match funded by v, the new youth volunteering charity. Both organisations are donating £30,000 over a 12 month period. Volunteers from Barclays are also providing hands-on support and training on the programme.

Terry Ryall, v Chief Executive, said: "We are delighted to be able to provide financial support to Tomorrow's People through our match fund programme. It is exciting to be involved in this project which creates new and creative volunteering experiences for young people in Sussex."

Andy Orgill, Area Corporate Director from Barclays said: "At Barclays, we're really proud of our leading community investment programme which added up to £46.5 million in 2006. We focus on using our knowledge and expertise to tackle social issues such as improving financial literacy and helping people get back to work. 'Working It Out' is a great example of an effective programme that will help young people in the Brighton area access the job market."

Supported by Tomorrow's People tutors and by volunteers from Barclays, small groups of young adults aged 16+ undertake a variety of one-to-one and group activities. These include local challenges that benefit the community and improve the environment. The team work and planning involved in the process reinforces the other skills training they benefit from on this programme.

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A mix of structured, practical support with personal and social development is designed to help each participant. Individuals on the programme work towards a 'Youth Achievement Award' and learn key skills communications qualifications. An individually tailored programme is designed to help participants gain, employment, or employment with training or further education.

While thousands of youngsters leave school and move on to college, university or jobs, there are many who leave with no skills or qualifications, no personal goals and little hope of employment. Figures reveal that the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training in East Sussex equates to 8.1 per cent.

Dave Slade, Head of Project for 'Working It Out' Brighton said: "At Tomorrow's People we aim to open doors for young people that otherwise would remain closed, making them aware of their abilities and personal qualities, and providing them with the support and guidance to identify and achieve personal goals and succeed in their own terms."

The programme in Brighton, and now available in three other cities across the UK, is based on a pilot project, run by Tomorrow's People in Tower Hamlets in 2003. 43% of the participants had a criminal conviction, only 21% had any educational qualification, and 43% reported that they had used drugs more than 11 times a month.

All but one group member completed the 16-week programme– an achievement in itself.

- At the end of the pilot 12 out of the 15 were either actively looking for work, in further education or training, or were actually in employment.
- Follow up four months later showed that 80% were continuing to undertake positive activity towards their chosen careers by either studying, training or job seeking with Tomorrow's People's help.

The project in Tower Hamlets, was evaluated by the independent think-tank nef (the new economics foundation), to measure the social return on investment.

- nef found that for every £1 invested in Working It Out, the return to society was trebled to £3.
- This social return on investment came from reduced welfare costs, increased tax take and reduced costs for the criminal justice system.*

Brian Gibson, Tomorrow's People National Manager, Young People's Services, said: "Through 'Working It Out' we have transformed the lives of many disadvantaged young people. Some of these people are likely to have very troubled histories, suffering from physical mistreatment, drug or alcohol abuse, low basic skills or mild learning disabilities.

“The ‘Working It Out’ programme is currently available in four major cities and there is a lot more we can achieve if we can secure further funding. The programme is able to secure pound for pound matched funding until 2009 for any private sector investment it attracts across the UK. We are actively seeking corporate partners looking to double the effect of their investment by funding Working IT Out in areas of deprivation across the UK.”

Anyone requiring further information about ‘Working It Out’ should visit www.tomorrows-people.co.uk. For details about the programme in Brighton please email wio.brighton@tomorrows-people.co.uk or telephone 01273 563916. For information about ‘Working It Out’ nationally, please contact Brian Gibson, Tomorrow’s People National Manager, Young People’s Services at bgibson@tomorrows-people.co.uk or call 0141 445 8995.

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Notes to Editors

Tomorrow’s People

Tomorrow’s People is a national charity with a 23- year track record of success in helping people out of long-term unemployment, homelessness, welfare dependence including incapacity benefits, and into jobs and self-sufficiency. It has helped change the lives of more than 400, 000 people across the UK who had been resigned to long-term, even life-long, unemployment, since it was established in 1984.

Barclays

Barclays community investment programme added up to £46.5 million in 2006.

- Over 33,000 of our people were involved in fundraising or volunteering in their communities
- We supported over 8,000 charities around the world.
- Over the last 5 years Barclays people have raised over £54 million for their favourite charities with our help and matched funding.

Nacro, the national crime reduction charity, works with disadvantaged people, deprived communities and ex-offenders to give them a positive stake in society. Nacro runs preventive projects to steer young people away from crime, provides housing, education and employment programmes for ex-offenders and people at risk of offending, resettles prisoners into the community and works with families and communities to prevent crime.

Nacro's learning and skills projects help people re-engage with learning, develop new personal, social and vocational skills, gain real work experience, and address problems affecting their choices and behaviour.

Nacro works in partnership with many agencies, including prison, probation areas, learning and skills councils, Jobcentre Plus and youth offending teams, as well as with around 600 local, regional and national employers to deliver learning and skills programmes in over 70 locations across England and Wales.

In Sussex, Nacro runs e2e (Entry to Employment) courses, Key Stage 4 (for 14-16 year olds) programmes and basic skills classes for probation clients.

To find out more and for access to online information resources, please visit: www.nacro.org.uk

v is the new youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a million more young volunteers in England aged 16-25. v has been formed as an independent charity using an innovative new model which allows funds raised from the private sector to be matched by the Government.

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