



....and it's goodbye from us!

Inspiring Enterprise Project comes to an end.

Since 2017 the Inspiring Enterprise project has been changing lives for the better. We have supported 1083 people who had been out of work find a job or become self-employed.

The project has been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund. Their support has made it possible for us to support our participants explore, develop and reach their goals. Inspiring Enterprise has been a project packed with free

1:1 support from our teams of enterprise advisers, dozens of workshops covering relevant business topics but also fun activities such as startup markets, road shows and even wreath making!

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. In a recent survey amongst participants 3 months into the project, 87% reported an increased confidence in their determination to become self-employed.

Our project received 2 extensions due to its success. Partners, stakeholders and a skilled and enthusiastic team have

In this issue:

Page 2:

- Testimonials
- Success2StartUp

Page 3

- Photo Montage

Page 4

- Our business adviser looks back
- Inspiring Enterprise Impact Highlights

been crucial to the project's success, working with many budding entrepreneurs.

Thank you for being part of this project.



The project's main focus was to support people to become self-employed, find a job, or start a training course. This is not an easy journey but with the support from our partners and experienced enterprise advisers we have supported over 1000 people's ambitions. Here is some of their feedback:



Success2StartUp—your online self-employment tool!

To help people become self-employed we have brought together all of our amazing resources and knowledge in our online, 5 –step tool.

Budding entrepreneurs are taken through 5 steps, covering business ideas, personal survival budget, business planning through to marketing tool kits, integrated financial planning, and topics such as tax, legal areas to be aware of , staff and premises.

The contents is easy to follow, made interesting and motivational through gamification, videos, resources and links to further information about topics. Success2start up can be accessed at all times and important documents you prepare can be downloaded.



Sign Up Today—www.success2startup.org.uk

The Inspiring Enterprise website features many Success Stories of participants we supported into self-employment. Visit www.inspiringenterprise.org.uk for a bit of inspiration.

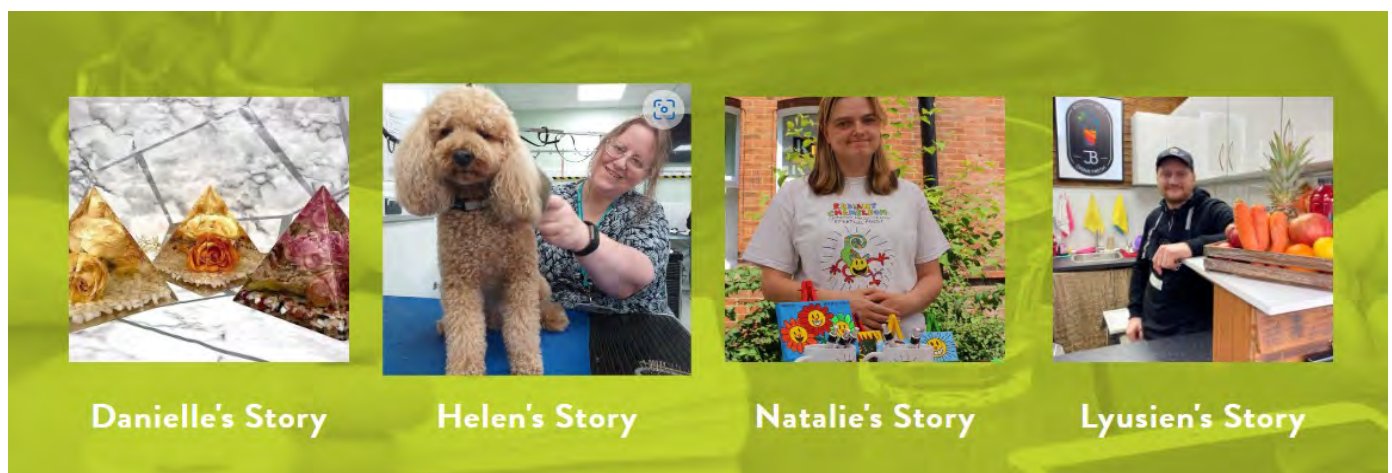


Photo Montage



Inspiring Enterprise Adviser Julie Stevenson looks back at her time working for Inspiring Enterprise

The Inspiring Enterprise for me was a great challenge. At the beginning it involved doing a lot of networking to promote the project and make myself known to potential stakeholders. In addition to familiarising myself with the paperwork requirements. After what felt like a slow start, the referrals from Job Centres started to come in and then it was a little like the buckets of water scene from the animated film Phantasia! Once the job centres realised the **scope of support** we were offering their clients, they signposted many individuals to the scheme. There wasn't anything else as comprehensive and it was exciting to be able to offer something so unique.

The thing I **enjoyed the most** was helping people to realise that they are capable of running their own business and that it is not as complicated as they believe. Once you allay their fears, you visibly see their confidence grow and a change in their attitude. Their motivation to move forward accelerates and from being in a place where they feel stuck, they then push ahead with enthusiasm. There is nothing more **rewarding** than seeing the smiles and sharing the excitement when a client tells you they've got their first client/sale. The complete transformation from when you first meet potential participants to when they launch their venture gives you such a buzz.

The diversity of clients I've been able to help has given

me much pleasure, as they come from all different backgrounds, some in extreme circumstances; including people who have fled from the war in Ukraine. Equally people on very low incomes who have struggled to get back into work due to circumstances beyond their control. It's **humbling** to see clients with barriers to employment face their fears or tackle their challenges in order to gain independence from the benefits system.

I always feel compelled to support my clients, not just with advice, but by buying their products or services once they are established. This includes doing pottery courses, paddleboarding, getting my hair and nails done, buying swimsuits, cakes, cashew nut snacks, chocolates and books. I even had a new kitchen fitted! It really makes my day when, out of the blue I get an email from a former client to tell me that they're still self-employed and loving it, with the words **"it's the best thing I ever did"**.



Inspiring Enterprise Impact Highlights

Supporting people who are far removed from the workplace and out of work back into paid employment or self-employment

Our programme includes:

- 1:1 support from a business adviser** (up to 6 months) including: business idea finalisation, market research, business and financial planning, legal aspects and marketing
- Access to a wide range of business-related workshops** such as bookkeeping, selling skills, social media for business, low-cost marketing, confidence building
- Access to free resources** including our step by step online start up tool, www.success2startup.org.uk

1083 No of people supported	589 No of females supported 490 No of men supported
464 (42%) No of people helped into self-employment and employment	149 (13%) No of people from an ethnic minority background supported
333 (30%) No of people with disabilities supported	283 No of people over 50 supported

Business Workshops

93% of participants attending our business workshops reported an increase in motivation to start a business
94% of participants attending our business workshops reported an increase in confidence to start a business

Inspiring Enterprise is a **Building Better Opportunities (BBO)** project funded by **The National Lottery Community Fund** and the **European Social Fund**

We have had over 50,000 views on our website	To share our expertise and benefit more people we have developed our online Start Up tool Success2Startup
61% of those in work felt they would have struggled to find their employment without help from BBO*	Our results rate 51% is much higher than comparable Community Fund projects (31%)
47% of those not working felt the support would help them to find employment due to improved confidence, motivation and a better idea of career opportunities	

* Building Better Opportunities (BBO), The National Lottery Community Fund, 2021