



Wiltshire Council

February 2021

BUILDING Bridges NEWSLETTER

What is Building Bridges?

Building Bridges is a free and voluntary service which supports people across Swindon and Wiltshire who are facing significant barriers to employment. The team work one-to-one with those who are unemployed or Not in Education or training to help them address the challenges and barriers they are facing and develop a personalised plan to help them achieve their goals at a pace they are comfortable with. If you, or someone you know would benefit from our support then a referral can be made through our [website](#), where you can also find more information on the programme.

Covid update:

Please be assured that the Building Bridges programme is still operating and we are keen to take more referrals.

Although during National Lockdown we are unable to conduct Face to Face appointments, we've adapted how we work and put in place some fantastic solutions to enable us to keep supporting people to work towards their employment and educational goals.

We hope to return to socially-distant, Covid-secure, face to face appointments as soon as we can and will keep you updated.



Meet the Team.

This is Lorraine. Lorraine has worked for Wiltshire Council for almost 20 years and has lots of experience of working with children and young people. A qualified JNC Youth Worker, previous roles have included:



The Youth Development Service, The Looked After Children's Team and an Employment Support Officer for 4 years this year!

LIKES MOST ABOUT HER JOB: "I love meeting new people and finding out about them; I love to talk! I like to help people who need help the most; I love being creative in my work and having lots of variety to my working week."

"I would encourage anyone to have a go at doing what they want to do, sometimes all we need is someone to help us and give us a bit of guidance"

FUN FACT: I once did a tandem sky dive for charity completely unaware that I was pregnant at the time!

What have we been up to this month?

81

People are currently being supported on the programme

11

New people have signed up to the programme

22

Of our current participants have achieved a qualification

(All during a national lockdown!)



As they feature in our Success Story this month, we'd like to give a shout out to the amazing job our Family and Community Learning team does, in providing online courses to help you find work. Just take a look at what you can sign up for in March, April and the beginning of May...



Wiltshire Family and Community Learning
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-learning>

Two easy routes to take first steps to start the search for employment and work out what's best for YOU. You can pick and choose Boost courses, but to make sure you are fully prepared, join the whole series to get your job search 100% perfect!

Date	Boost Online Courses	Date	Time
March Friday 5	*Discover How to Boost Your Potential Jumpstart your positive thinking to step in the right direction (* an introduction to the online Boost x 8 series)	March Weds 17	10:00-12:00 1 x session
March Friday 12	1. Boost Your Skills Understand the best ways to use your personal qualities	March Mon 22	10:00-1:00 1 x session
March Friday 19	2. Boost Your Job Seeking Realise your capabilities and how to promote yourself	March Weds 24	10:00-1:00 1 x session
March Friday 26	3. Boost Your Career Find realistic ways to find new job opportunities	March Mon 29	10:00-1:00 1 x session
April Friday 9	4. Boost Your Opportunities Online How to make your online profile stand out from the crowd	March Weds 31	10:00-1:00 1 x session
April Friday 16	5. Boost Your Job Applications Learn how to demonstrate you are the right applicant	April Weds 7	10:00-1:00 1 x session
April Friday 23	6. Boost Your Communication Skills Get your message across to gain employment	April Mon 12	10:00-1:00 1 x session
April Friday 30	7. Boost Your Wellbeing Learn how paid or unpaid work helps wellbeing	April Weds 14	10:00-1:00 1 x session
May Friday 7	8. Boost Your Online Interview Skills Present your best qualities for an online interview	April Mon 19	10:00-1:00 1 x session

Please check <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-learning> for details about more courses and how to sign up. You can call us on 01225 770478, leave a message and we will call you back.

Email: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk Courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. *Learners must be 19+, have been resident in UK/EU for three or more years, have less than five GCSEs grades A-C and/or be a service family and/or in receipt of benefits. We are always happy to talk criteria through if you are going through a difficult time or stuck in rut.

Twitter @WiltsFaCL Wiltshirefamilylearning



Spotlight on Wellbeing.

Each month we want to give you a new challenge to try. Here are some brain teasers to try to answer *as fast as you can...*

Enjoy!

You are participating in a race.

You overtake the second person.

What position are you in?

Count every "F" in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

Say the Color of each Word!

(Don't read the word)

How Fast can you say it?

black white yellow green red blue
 yellow red black green white red
 white green red black yellow green
 black white yellow green red blue
 white green red black yellow green
 yellow red black green white red
 white green red black yellow green

www.TheCraftyClassroom.com

I AM THE FIRST ON EARTH, THE SECOND IN HEAVEN.
 I APPEAR TWICE IN A WEEK BUT YOU CAN ONLY SEE ME ONCE IN A YEAR BECAUSE I AM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA. WHAT AM I?

If you would like to know if you are right, please email your answers to:

lorraine.pullin@wiltshire.gov.uk

Hot Tip!

If you are thinking of applying for a job in a completely different industry, you probably have transferable skills that are useful in many different roles. A lack of direct experience isn't always a negative, as employers look for candidates with adaptability. Try listing your transferable skills and pair them with examples where you have used them.

Some examples: Communication; Decision-making; Problem solving; Mediating.

Add these transferable skills to your CV and tailor them to fit to the company you are contacting.

BUILDING Bridges—SUCCESS STORY

Mari* is a lady in her 50's. She was referred to Building Bridges through her GP surgery, as she was struggling. She moved to the UK 15 years ago with her family and has always been a stay-at-home mum; her husband has always been the one to go out to work. Because her children are no-longer dependent on her and she has no other family here, she started to get lonely and this led to depression.

During our first call, Mari said she wanted a little part-time job, so she isn't so lonely and to help with household bills. Mari has arthritis in both knees and needed to find a job where she could sit down and work. She doesn't drive so the job would also have to fit around her husband's work hours.

Mari had never had a job before, had never had an interview or even applied for one.

We started with weekly calls, just to give her someone to speak to. We wrote a basic CV together and applied to local care homes, asking if they needed any voluntary staff, someone to talk to residents – sadly, we received no response. We then applied to be a volunteer who rings people who are lonely, especially with Covid-19 and the current national restrictions. Mari received a call back but the role required a commitment of 4 days a week and written reports about the calls made. Mari felt uncomfortable about this.

Finally, a job was advertised at her local Tesco which was perfect. I helped Mari apply while on the phone with me and set up an online account for her because she was not yet comfortable using the internet. We had no luck from this application, however, after calling the store manager, he took Mari's name and said he would pass her name and my information on to the recruitment department for any future applications she makes.

In the meantime, I gave Mari information on Wiltshire Council's Family and Community Learning team (FaCL) and she said she would like to try one of their confidence courses but again, was worried about online work.

Lockdown lifted just in time for us to have one garden visit and together we set up her laptop and registered her on the FaCL course. I showed her how to get onto the site and explained the start-up process, where to find her emails and how to reply.

As we were approaching Christmas, her local Tesco advertised for part-time seasonal workers. I helped Mari to apply again, she had a positive response this time and was asked to go for an interview. Our Building Bridges In-Work Support Officer then prepared Mari for the interview, talking through what she should expect. She was very nervous, but she was also well-prepared for the interview and she got the job!

We were all so happy for her. She now has 7 contracted hours a week but is often asked to do more, which she loves to do. Mari is no longer lonely as she is meeting lots of people through her job and she can save her money for any household extras. Eventually, she is hoping to save enough money to buy a ticket to visit her family.

Some comments from Mari on her Building Bridges experience:

'Being on Building Bridges has really helped improve my mental health. I have more motivation and I have been able to do something positive for myself; I have secured my first job!'

'My Development Worker was incredibly patient with me and helpful; I felt I clicked with her straight away. She provided me with so much help and reassurance and supported me with improving my IT skills. She helped me understand what I needed to do to search and apply for a job. The regular 1:1 support I received really helped me improve my own confidence and self-esteem. Having someone to talk to who was positive and who guided me was brilliant.'

(*all names have been changed)



Let's get Social.

We are on Facebook, please like our page for updates and news about the project.

Search: Building Bridges Wiltshire

We also have a closed group that participants on the programme can join.

Speak to your Development Worker if you would like to know more.

